



# SHILOH AND BEYOND

A HISTORY OF THE FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH  
GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

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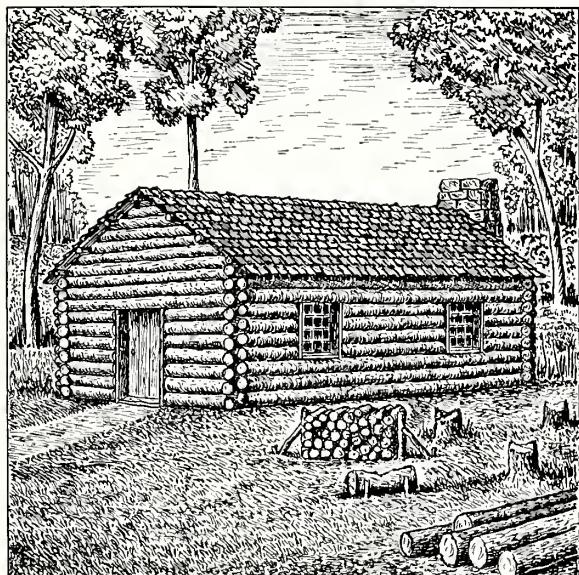
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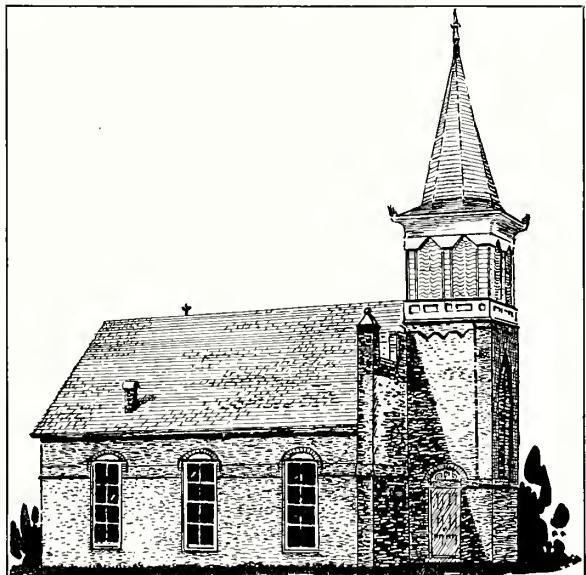
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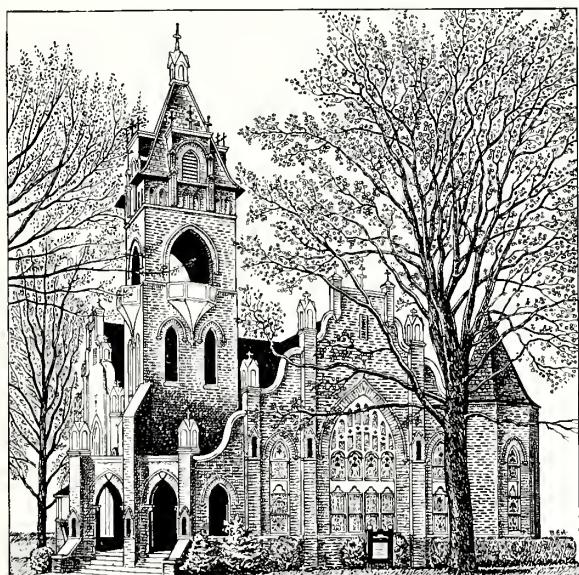
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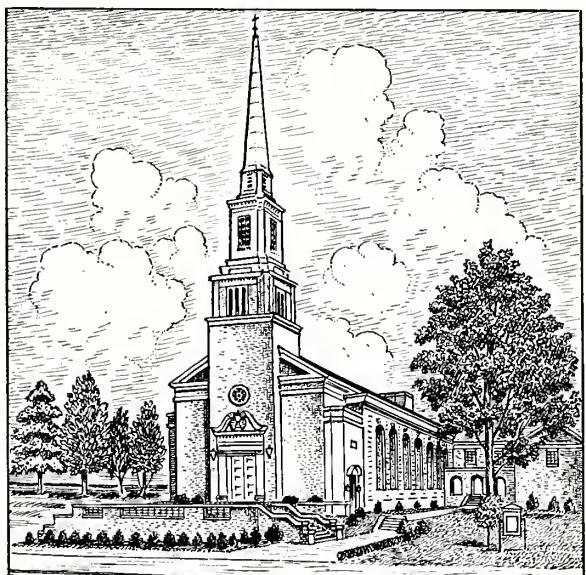
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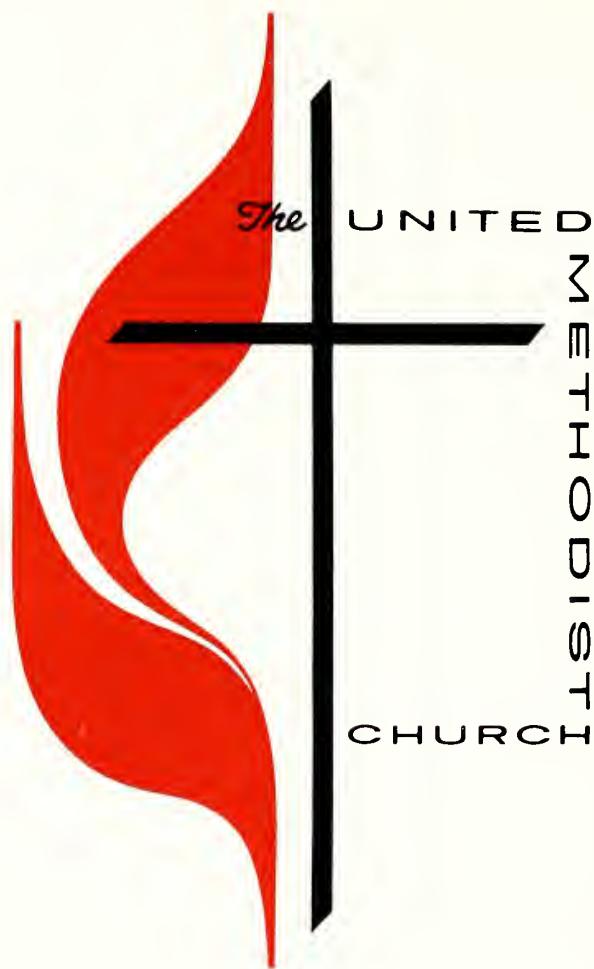
1900



1970

DAMERON H. WILLIAMS

*Editor*



## THE INSIGNE OF THE UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

This insigne represents the union of two churches—The Evangelical United Brethren Church and The Methodist Church. The symbol was adopted on October 1, 1968, by the Division of Interpretation, a part of the Program Council of the church.

In the new insigne, the traditional symbol of the cross is combined with the flame. The total flame suggests the presence of God's spirit in the united church. The separate flames can be interpreted as representing the two churches, born of the spirit, who are now one denomination. At the very center stands the cross.

While not so commonly seen as other Christian symbols, the flame has rich connotations. As one of several representations of the Holy Spirit, it is associated especially with Pentecost, when witnesses saw ". . . tongues as of fire, distributed and resting on each of them." (Acts 2:3).

An emphasis on the Holy Spirit is a prominent feature of Wesleyan theology, shared by the denominations that formed the United Methodist Church.

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# FOREWORD

## Keeping The History Of A Local Church

By Earl G. Hunt, Jr., D.D., LLD.  
Presiding Bishop  
The Charlotte Area

Christians, we are told, are the pilgrim people of God. The history of a local congregation is a record of pilgrimage. To preserve such a record with care and fidelity to accurate details has an imposing cluster of values to the church involved, some of them instructional and others inspirational in nature.

For one thing, *keeping an understanding history unites the past with the present and provides substantial preparation for the future.* The life and spirit of an individual church are the products of many people and many events. In stories of toil, sacrifice and spiritual vision from bygone days, the contemporary church glimpses its own deep indebtedness to members who have gone before—and begins to understand as well that many of the problems which haunt modern Christians are merely up-to-date versions of perplexities which have always tormented the household of Faith!

Again, *history always has its lessons to teach.* There is in the New Testament the story of Paul's pastoral concern over the church at Corinth, with all of its trials, troubles and spiritual failures. It is surprising how much guidance for facing today's bewildering issues may be gleaned from a careful study of the history of that far-away, long-ago church. The principles which govern our action and reaction as Christians do not change with the passing of the centuries, although the methodologies employed must be altered. It is at the point of such principles that the record of the past serves to inform and instruct those of us who are living and laboring among God's people today.

Another value needs to be mentioned. Almost always careful scrutiny of a church's history will serve to reveal one or more "spiritual giants" who figured prominently in the making of that history. I remember so well going through just such a discovery when we were undertaking to compile the history of First Methodist Church in Morristown, Tennessee in preparation for the celebration of its centennial during my pastorate there. We had persuaded a very well-known Morristown citizen and churchwoman,



Bishop Earl G. Hunt, Jr.

the distinguished American novelist, Helen Topping Miller, to write the story of our church's first one hundred years. In the midst of her efforts, she came to my study one afternoon under the spell of a beautiful excitement. "Mr. Hunt," she said, "I have just met one of the loveliest people I have ever encountered and I had to come over here to tell you about her." Whereupon, Mrs. Miller told me of a little old lady, badly crippled, who had lived and died fifty years before but whose sublime faith in Jesus Christ and in the power of prayer to overcome a church's problems had all been written down in the musty old records buried away in the files of First Church. I still think of this humble cripple who died now more than sixty-five years ago, but whose witness is still a thrilling part of the story of a great church in Tennessee. Every church has somewhere in its records accounts of similar individuals, and they come marching out in response to loving research to challenge and inspire Christian people of another and more modern generation.

I salute First United Methodist Church in Gastonia because of its wisdom in preserving and making available to all of its members now and in the future a record of its history. This is one of the most farsighted statesmanlike enterprises in which a church may engage.

# OUTSTANDING EVENTS IN METHODISM

By Dr. Charles E. Shannon  
Pastor - 1968—

Instead of attempting to provide a full account of the history of Methodism of which this congregation is a part, it is deemed wiser to offer a series of important dates which commemorate outstanding events in our denomination, and to refer the reader to such works as Fitchett's *Wesley and His Century* (Abingdon Press, 1917) and *The History of American Methodism*, E. S. Burke, Editor (Three volumes, Abingdon Press, 1964) for details.

Methodism began in the year 1729 at Oxford University, England, when John and Charles Wesley, along with George Whitefield and a few other young men, banded together in "Holy Clubs" for intellectual and spiritual improvement. They were so systematic in their habits and religious duties and so regular in their rules of conduct, they came to be known as "Methodists."

1729	—Formation of Holy Clubs at Oxford.
1736-37	—John and Charles Wesley visit America.
May 24, 1738	—John Wesley's heartwarming experience at Aldersgate Chapel, London.
1739	—Organization of the first Methodist Society in London.
1760	—First "Lay Preachers" come to America.
1769	—Joseph Pilmore and Richard Broadman, Methodist missionaries from England, arrive in America.
1771	—John Wesley sent Francis Asbury to America to be his "Chief Assistant."
September, 1784	—John Wesley ordained Dr. Thomas Coke to be Superintendent to the Methodists in America.
December 24, 1784	—Organization of American Methodism at "Christmas Conference" in Baltimore.
1784-1816	—Years of expansion and growth among all classes and races in the colonies.
1816	—Formation of African Methodist Episcopal Church in Philadelphia, by black Methodists. This denomination maintains its identity today.



Dr. Charles E. Shannon

1820	—Formation of African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in New York City, by black Methodists. This church is progressing across our country among blacks.
1828	—Division over church government; formation of the Methodist Protestant Church.
1844	—Division over slavery, formation of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the Methodist Episcopal Church.
1939	—Unification of three main branches of Methodism: The Methodist Protestant, The Methodist Episcopalian, and The Methodist Episcopal, South,—to form The Methodist Church.
1946	—The Evangelical United Brethren Church was formed by unification of the Evangelical Church and the United Brethren in Christ (1800).
1968	—Formation of the United Methodist Church by uniting of the Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church.

## INTRODUCTION

By George Jenkins, Jr.  
Chairman, History Committee

Several years ago, when the First Presbyterian Church of Gastonia published a history, a number of members of the First Methodist Church began expressing an interest in a similar project for our congregation, recognizing the contribution which this church had made to the wider community. At first, the idea was shared with a relatively small group, but interest grew as others learned about the discussions.

In early 1965, Dr. C. C. Herbert, Jr., Senior Minister of the church, called together those who had expressed particular interest in the possibility of producing such a history: John R. Rankin, Guy Killian, Dr. Charles H. Pugh, James W. Atkins, R. Grady Rankin, Allen H. Sims and George Jenkins, Jr. The decision was reached to recommend to the Official Board that a history be published. This was done, and the following committee was elected to proceed with the project:

George Jenkins, Jr., Chairman, Allen H. Sims, R. Grady Rankin, George B. Mason, Grady Stott, James H. Atkins, R. H. Pinnix, Hicks Stacey, Mrs. Charles Gunter, Russ Clark, Mrs. Pat McSwain, John R. Rankin, Charles D. Gray, Ennis Atkins, Miss Evelyn Dellinger, Dr. C. C. Herbert, Jr., Raymond Hackney, Giles Smith, Guy Killian and Edwin Starr.

Dameron H. Williams, a loyal member of our church and an excellent writer and researcher, was approached, and he volunteered to do the research and soon learned that our origin dated back to 1870. With this in mind, Dr. Charles E. Shannon, successor to Dr. Herbert,



George Jenkins, Jr.

suggested that we set a target date of December, 1970, to complete the payment of all indebtedness on the church properties and to have Services of Dedication on December 13, 1970, as well as publish a history of our first century of service to God and man.

Various interruptions in the schedule have been experienced, but the original objective has been retained, and this volume is presented with the sincere appreciation to the above-named committee. Since the first committee was appointed in 1965, the names of several members have been taken from the list due to death or other causes, while others have taken their places including: Dr. Charles Shannon, Robert L. Allen, Dameron H. Williams, R. V. McPhail, Mrs. W. G. Hamner, and Mrs. Nell Lavender.

Appropriate recognition appears elsewhere in this book for Everett J. Jones, who, with the assistance of his wife, Elizabeth Van Dyke Jones, assembled Editor Williams' material, laid out the page format, and published the book.

# Shiloh



*"There is properly no history; only biography"*  
—Emerson

This is the inspiring story of a firm foundation, of its forming, and of its ultimate transfer the distance of half a mile. Originating in the hearts and minds of people, discernible only in its effects, strengthened by other people in successive endeavor, the foundation has served and sustained for more than a hundred years. It serves and sustains even to this day.

Well beyond a century ago, a band of men and women, scarcely more than a score, journeyed from homes in the North Carolina county of Lincoln, later to be Gaston, and gathered near an old, old cemetery known then and now as Shiloh.

Those assembled, members of a then termed Methodist Society, had come with a common purpose, the building there of a house, a place wherein they might join in the worship of God. Using the tools of their time, the adz and the axe, they felled trees from the dense forest about them, cut, dressed, and beveled the logs, and fitted them into a rough-hewn house.

Their low shelter, doubtless devoid of conveniences and creature comforts, was to serve in its first years as a "preaching place," an ap-

Drawn by Mrs. Richard Penegar



Rev. W. L. C. Killian and Mrs. Killian. As a circuit rider, he served Shiloh; later was a member of the 1885 and 1900 churches.



Saddlebags used by Rev. Killian as a circuit rider.

pointment for visiting circuit riders. In time, the small body organized a church and chose for its name—Shiloh. (Hebrew: Messiah, Christ.)

In the beginning, this was a meeting place, then later it was *The Shiloh Methodist Episcopal Church, South*. The founders would preserve this identity for four decades. The years would be trying; the small group would endure hardship. Their little church would lack even a minimum of requisites for services. Their log house would be destroyed by fire, and with other difficulties, dissension was to split the church asunder.

Substance of the foregoing has been obtained in greater part from secular sources. Apparently, our church ancestors preserved few records even to comparatively recent years, and this deficiency was encountered throughout this research. No roster of Shiloh's membership has been discovered though a few have been identified through various sources.

Fortunately, the late James W. Atkins, long an active member of our church, and for many years publisher of *The Gastonia Gazette*, wrote or reproduced a number of articles in the paper relating to the growth of Methodism in Gastonia. Of these, one is of especial value and significance by reason of the date of its issue, July 14, 1904. Logically, source material for the article was secured from eye-witnesses of events and conditions occurring well within their life spans.

Slightly abridged and condensed, an excerpt from this article presents an account of Shiloh's founding and subsequent course:

"Long before Gastonia was ever a village, Methodism was represented here by some exhorter, class teacher, or traveling preacher. Sometime during the early 1840's, there was organized a Methodist Society known as Shiloh located in the eastern part of town near the present site of the Modena Mill. (Ed. note: later the Klopman Mills) . . . Shiloh more than held its own for upward of a quarter of a century."

Several sources, including the late J. H. Separk's *History of Gastonia and Gaston County*, references in deeds of land to the church, and further reference in the *Gazette*, confirm that Shiloh was in existence considerably longer than "upward of a quarter of a century." Authoritative records, in fact, place the time of its termination as the year 1884.

About the building of the log house and its history, the articles continue: "In the 1850's, Shiloh Church, then a little log building, was burned, but so great was the zeal of its members that they rebuilt it within a week's time." That this second log house stood and served as a church until the congregation moved to Gastonia proper in 1881, is substantiated in the *Gazette* account, by Separk in his history, and further by several persons of advanced age, who some four years ago, told of having seen the house there in 1881.

Three individuals, also well advanced in years but of remarkably clear mind, fixed the location of this log church within reasonable deviation. According to their recollection, the house was in a then thickly wooded area some 50 to 75 yards west of the rear of the present Klopman Mill (Old Modena). A major dirt highway of the time, "the Lincolnton to York, S. C. route," passed a short distance east of the site.

On the basis of this description and an overlay showing the town limits of Gastonia as of incorporation, 1877, the church site appears to have been approximately 200 to 250 yards northwest of Shiloh Cemetery. The town's eastern limit, Church Street, extended north would pass, according to city engineers, through the back portion of the Klopman Mill. This would place The Shiloh Church inside the 1877 town limits instead of its position exactly on the line as shown on the map elsewhere in this volume.

Presumably, the log church was rebuilt at the same location after the fire and the congregation was meeting here when the dissension occurred. Of this, the *Gazette* reported: "About two years before the outbreak of the War Between the States, the sharp agitation then rife



Rev. Mark L. Carpenter, Pastor and Trustee, Shiloh Church, 1870.

*Pastors of Shiloh Church in 1870's—No pictures available.*

Rev. J. J. C. Anders

Rev. George W. Ivey

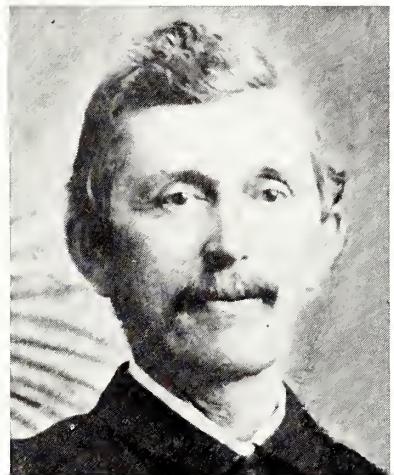
*Shiloh Church Pastors  
No pictures available.*

Rev. J. B. Alford  
1880

Rev. G. W. Gallahan  
1881

Rev. A. G. Gantt  
1882-'83

Rev. S. J. McLeod  
1884



Rev. J. B. Carpenter, Pastor, Shiloh Church, 1878-'79 and in 1885.

in the country caused a split in the church with the result that in 1859 or 1860 several union sympathizers withdrew fellowship from the church. It is said that at this date, the church had only 25 or 30 members but attendance was always large."

Circuit riders, "traveling preachers," serving the Shiloh congregation here were under the direction of the South Carolina Methodist Conference, a jurisdictional supervision that was to continue until 1870 when the North Carolina Conference assumed jurisdiction of this section. In 1890, the Western North Carolina Conference was formed and Shiloh, thereafter under its supervision, was assigned to the circuit served by the church in neighboring Lowell.

There were the years of "rousement" in the church services, emotions ran high, and repenting sinners "came through" with unrestrained fervor. Congregations were vociferous in support of the preaching, saints were praised, and backsliders openly rebuked. This presentation, however, is not an indulgence in levity nor is it intended to deride or disparage; emotional outbursts of this nature were for the most part

sincere expressions of belief, of faith, of convictions, a way of religious life fitting the time and age.

The late Dr. Forrest J. Prettyman, beloved pastor of Main Street Church in 1924-1927, told of some of these old Methodist services in an article published by the *Gazette* in 1924. "These were the days," he related, "of the old time Methodist ardor which was expressed by shouting and by resonant amens from the pillars of the church."

In tracing the origin of our church, Dr. Prettyman told of the functions of one of its laymen. Introducing, incidentally, a name associated with that of a prominent family of this area and a member of Shiloh Church, Dr. Prettyman wrote: "The class leader was a very important man. Mr. Joe Bradley filled this office together with that of Sunday school superintendent for a long time." Continuing, he brought in another name prominent in our church today. "The home of Mr. B. T. Morris's parents was home for the circuit rider when he came this way."

Several years after the ending of the War Between the States, according to available ree-

ords, in the early 1870's, the small Shiloh membership undertook and successfully concluded a project of major proportions, the sponsoring and maintenance of an annual series of camp meetings. Erecting a brush arbor on the church grounds, this small group was host to vast throngs of people, some of them coming a distance of 100 miles.

That these annual meetings were largely attended and that the gatherings entailed much preparation and maintenance on the part of the estimated "25 or 30 members" of Shiloh, is borne out by accounts in Separk's history and in the *Gazette*. There was no town, since Gastonia had not been incorporated then; and even when the incorporation came in 1877, the population was only an estimated 235 people.

Of the meetings, Separk wrote that "Four or five Methodist ministers did the preaching and among those attending were many scores, even hundreds, from as far south as Columbia, South Carolina and as far north as Salisbury." And in further description: "Scores of tents were erected and for a period of nearly three weeks, a serving table was kept in continuous service, from which hundreds were served daily meals." Referring to the large number, the *Gazette* reported that "Hundreds came from other places including half a dozen adjacent counties."

A definite economic trend was underway in this area at the time of these meetings. Its effects, in fact, had been noticeable for several years. Developing by reason of the expected entrance of rail lines into the region, there would be marked changes affecting Shiloh Church and to a greater extent this entire section. In 1873, the Atlanta and Charlotte Airline Railway, now the Southern Railroad ran its first train through to Charlotte. Some three years later, the Chester and Lenoir Narrow Gauge, now the Carolina and Northwestern, made a crossing here. The effect was immediate. In 1877, 235 people incorporated the town of Gastonia; the crossing of the railroads was the center and the base of the new town.

Shiloh's membership would move to this new town in a few years. Oliver W. Davis, who

was to be the donor of land for a new church to be built here, had already followed the trend by moving from his home in the Shiloh neighborhood to Gastonia proper where he built a home.

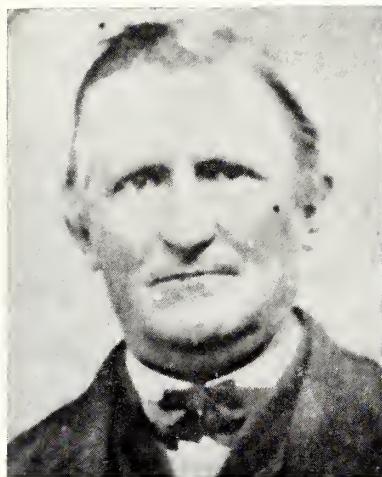
The Davis family, to whom we are greatly indebted, owned, according to family history, "All the land from Shiloh Cemetery to York Road." (Now York Street) Oliver, his family, and his father before him, James Davis, were devout Methodists. The log house and church grounds were on the Davis property and unquestionably, the families were members of the original Shiloh Church.

Dr. Prettyman, in his interview with the *Gazette*, referred to the transaction whereby Oliver Davis sold to Shiloh Church a parsonage lot in Gastonia proper prior to Shiloh's move from the log house, but no record has been found that this parsonage was ever built on the property. The deed cited was dated July 19, 1880, and the sale price of the lot was given as \$75.

According to the reference, this site was "Situated where the P. and N. station now stands . . . and where was built the first parsonage." In further reference, it was disclosed that Davis bought the lot back in 1882 paying \$825 for it and that the handsome profit involved was ". . . an exchange . . . amounting to a gift from brother Davis of the present site." (The land upon which the first Main Street Church was built.)

Of the pastors serving Shiloh Church prior to and immediately after 1870, four can be identified—the Reverend W. L. C. Killian, the Reverend J. J. C. Anders, the Reverend George W. Ivey, and the Reverend Mark Carpenter. The few available records show the appointment of the Reverend J. B. Carpenter as pastor in 1878-1879. He was followed by the Reverend J. B. Alford in 1880.

In 1881, with the Reverend G. W. Gallahan as pastor, the Shiloh membership moved from the log house to Gastonia proper and into a



Lawson A. Mason  
Trustee, Shiloh

Shiloh Church Trustees  
No pictures available

J. N. Davis  
A. J. Falls  
A. R. Anders  
J. F. Long



Moses Stroup  
Trustee, Shiloh

temporary place of worship in *The Academy*, a primary school then located on a site west of and bordering on Oakland Street, approximately near the east side entrance to our present church.

A transition period of three years followed. The Reverend A. G. Gantt served as pastor of Shiloh Church in 1882-1883 followed by the Reverend S. J. McLeod in 1884.

In J. H. Separk's history, he estimated that by this time the membership approximated 110. From available records, it appears that *The Shiloh Methodist Episcopal Church, South*, ceased to exist under that title in this year of 1884, the membership joining with others in organizing the church that was to be known as *The Main Street Methodist Church*. Construction of the new church building began in that year.

Only a few who were members of the Shiloh Church at some period of its existence can be identified. That the Davis families were members appears certain. Dr. Prettyman referred to "class leader" Joe Bailey, a name of prominence in this section, as a member of Shiloh, and also to the parents of B. T. Morris, both of whom

could have been members. Their son, B. T. Morris, and his wife, were life-long members of the Main Street churches and several of their descendants are members of our present congregation.

Trustees named in the various Oliver W. Davis deeds were undoubtedly members of Shiloh Church and a number of their descendants are members of our present congregation. Trustee Lawson A. Mason was the grandfather of George B. Mason and Oscar F. Mason, Jr., and their sister, Mrs. John R. Huss, of our church. Another trustee, Moses Stroup, was the great-grandfather of Dr. Mathew A. Stroup, Jr. The Reverend Mark Carpenter, trustee, was a relative of Clayton C. Carpenter, also of our congregation. The Reverend J. J. C. Anders and his brother, A. R. Anders, trustees, are represented by the family of the late Dr. MacG. Anders in our church today. Two others, J. N. Davis and A. J. Falls, cannot be identified except by name.

Many relatives of the trustees and ministers named in the foregoing are members of other congregations and denominations and even though most of them are long established residents of this section, they are not listed. The

Reverend W. L. C. Killian, serving as a circuit rider in this region for many years and long a faithful and active member of the Main Street churches, was not identified with Shiloh Church except in his capacity. Descendants include the late Guy Killian and his family, members of our church.

In seeking records and information concerning Shiloh Church, fortunate contact occurred some three and a half years ago with several individuals, then of great age, who recalled three persons who were active in this church, naming V. E. Long, grandfather of Richard V. McPhail; Henderson Long, great uncle of J. K. Long, Jr.; and Captain J. A. Huss, grandfather of John R. Huss, all of our congregation.

The listings are far from complete. Unfortunately, further records of this nature do not appear to exist.

This then is the story, in part, of Shiloh Methodist Church. Research extending into the past for a century and a quarter has been extremely difficult; but the records found present, in broad outline, the equally difficult course of these pioneers, the founders of Methodism in Gastonia, and of their notable achievements.

The few "gathered in His name" in a log house built with their own hands, joining with others in the passing years, weathering the circumstantial storms and tempests of their time, left to those who would follow a legacy, a foundation. These were surely possessed of a sense of sacrificial dedication and steadfast faith to which was added in a large measure that which imparts life to faith—works.

—By Dameron H. Williams

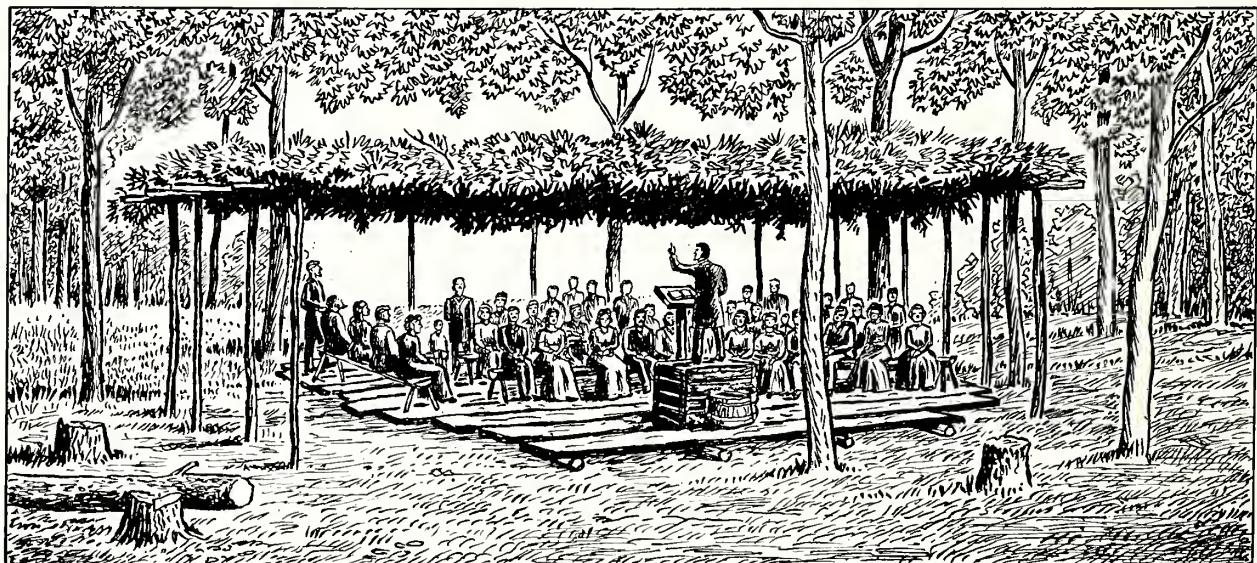
#### OLD SHILOH CEMETERY

Shiloh Cemetery, located near the East Baptist Church in Gastonia, is very old. For years it was allowed to be taken over by weeds. In recent years the City of Gastonia took over its upkeep.

Several very old grave markers were of porous or "field rock" and most of these have broken into small bits. Some markers were found dating back to 1829 and one possibly to 1804. Others are of fairly recent dates from 1870 and on up to the near present.

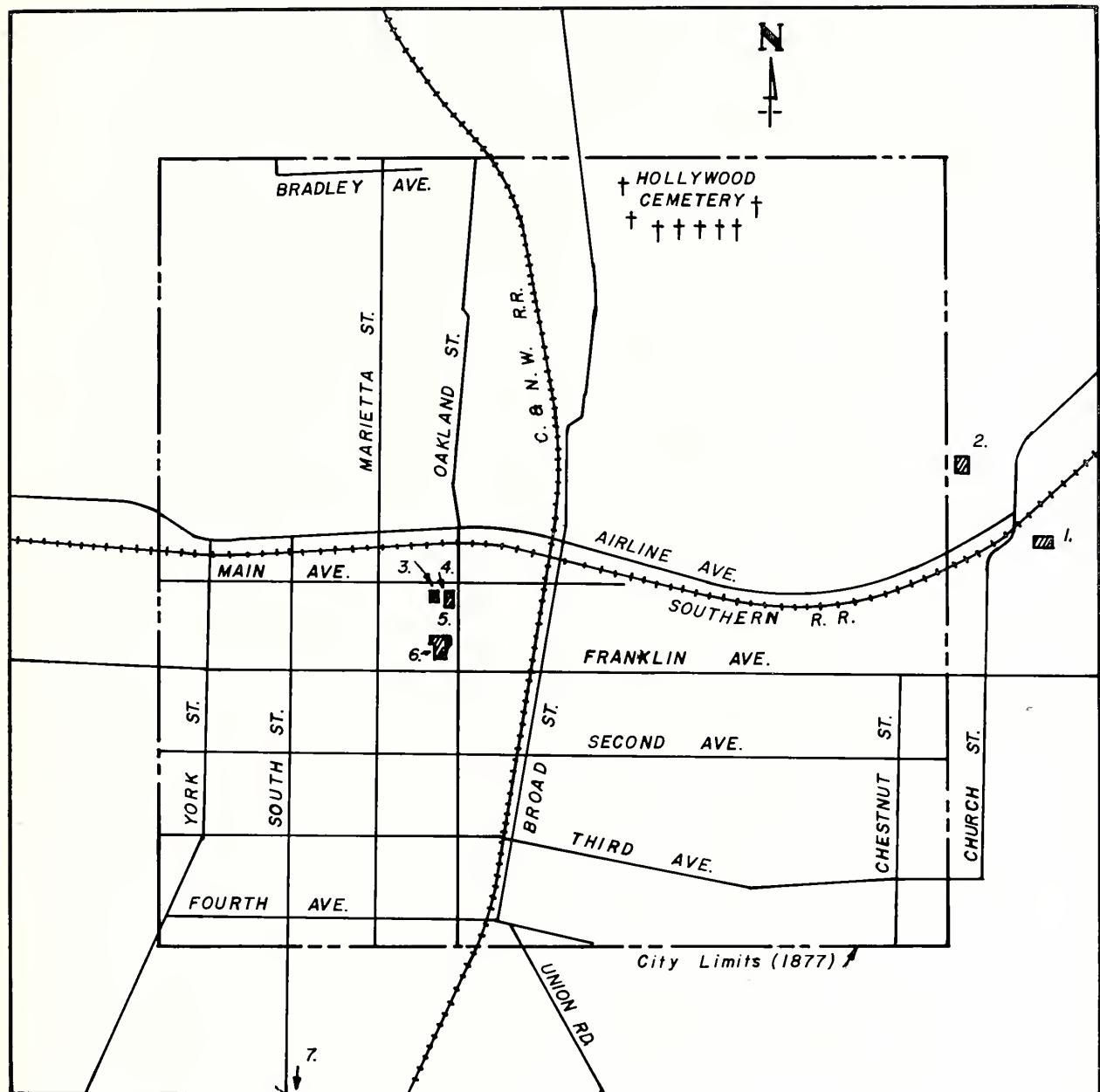
Old Shiloh Cemetery, as far as is known, has no denominational connection.

#### A BRUSH ARBOR — 1870



Drawing by Ben E. Abernathy

# GASTONIA AT THE TIME OF INCORPORATION - 1877



Map of Gastonia in 1877

Legend: 1—Shiloh cemetery; 2—Shiloh log church; 3—1885 parsonage; 4—1885 and 1900 church buildings; 5—1922 parsonage; 6—1956 church building; 7—1958 parsonage (1200 South Street).

Gastonia city limits as set forth in the charter of 1877, according to Separk's county history, being: "One mile square to be determined by closing the lines running one-half mile north, south, east and west from the center of the crossing of the Richmond and Charlotte Airline Railway (now the Southern) and the Chester and Lenoir Narrow Gauge R.R. (now C. & N.W.)."

An overlay map is also drawn around the 1877 map to place Shiloh log church and the Shiloh cemetery. Street names are as of today; most were nonexistent in 1877, others bore different names. On the original map Main Street and Oakland Street were marked. York Street was York Road and Franklin Avenue was Mill Street prior to 1898.

Map drawn by Clyde Robinson



Drawn by Ralph Deaton

Main Street Methodist Church — 1885

# Beyond Shiloh

## Main Street Methodist Church - 1885

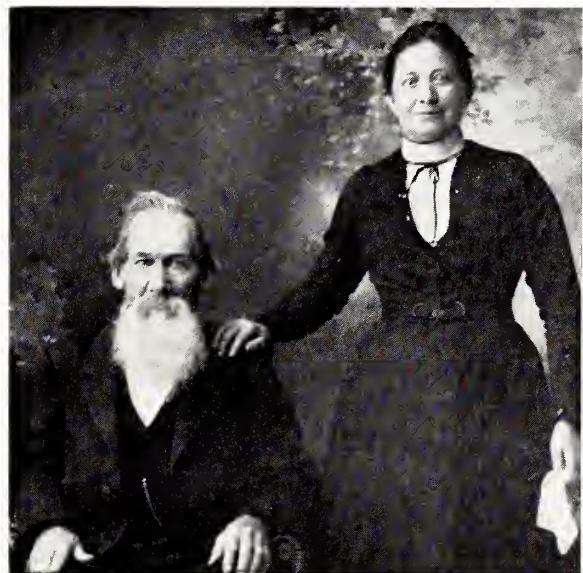
The estimated 110 members of *Shiloh Methodist Church, South*, meeting with others, doubtless assembled in *The Academy*, a primary school in Gastonia, when they organized *The Main Street Methodist Church, South* in 1884. (This Academy was on a site extending westward from Oakland Street, its entrance approximately at the east entrance of our present church.)

Shiloh Church relinquished its title at about this date and the erection of a new church building began. Site of the building was on land obtained through the generosity of two devoted members of both Shiloh Church and of the new one, Oliver W. Davis and his wife, Lydia. The church grounds, on the south side of Main Street (Avenue status was years away) and extending westward 50 feet from the eastern boundary, Oakland Street, were of a depth of 70 feet on Oakland. Building and grounds occupied the space upon the present north parking lot and a part of our present property.

Of brick construction, the small rectangular building measured 48 by 32 feet and was erected at a cost of \$1,200, an indebtedness retired in 1888 when Bishop W. W. Duncan dedicated the church and its grounds. The Reverend J. B. Carpenter, previous pastor of Shiloh Church, was the first minister appointed to the new church when services began in 1885. Main Street Church thus became the second of the Methodist denomination to be organized in Gastonia, Shiloh Church having preceded it.

Three other denominations had organized churches in Gastonia during this period. According to J. H. Separk's *History of Gastonia and the County*, the Baptists formed a church here in 1876, the Presbyterians in 1882, and the Associate Reformed Presbyterians in 1886. Numerous denominations including the Methodist had established churches within Gaston County prior to these years, several of them with dates of origin from the middle 1700's to the early 1800's.

Only those of advanced age will have had first-hand knowledge of and experience in the small town and the small church of the late 1800's to about the turn of the century. From small towns have

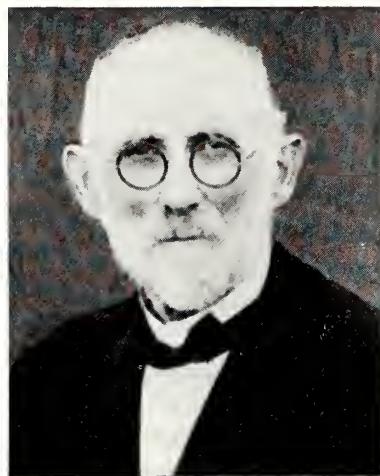


Oliver W. Davis and wife, Lydia

come our great cities and our extraordinary economic growth; from the small churches, our magnificent edifices of today.

The way was not easy; accommodations, appointments, and facilities we accept as common-place today existed only in the imaginative dreams indulged in by a few, most of whom were considered rather daft. A word picturization of Gastonia in the early years should prove at least illuminating. These were times when pioneers were frequently called upon to make "bricks without straw" and the bricks were made.

From the vantage point, then, of a resident of modern Gastonia, in this year of 1970, with its population 50,000, its incorporated area 20 square miles, we glance into history's rear-view mirror and see the sprawling village that was Gastonia at the time of incorporation in 1877. The town's population was an estimated 235, its incorporated area one square mile. In 1885, when the Main Street Methodist Church began services, the population had in-



Rev. C. M. Campbell  
1892-1895



Rev. W. M. Bagby  
1895-1898

creased to 435. The picturization includes this general period.

Gastonia's town limit, south, was pasture land, now Fourth Avenue; to the west, York Road, now York Street, was the limit; past Church Street, east, was out of town, and the northern limit touched Hollywood Cemetery.

Sidewalks were, for the most part, figments of the imagination, but there were several options in traveling by dirt road: afoot, mule or horseback, buggies, ornate surreys with fringed tops, and wagons. In the "Town Square," at about the location of the present Lawyer's Building, corner of Main Avenue and South Street, was the town's lone "horse and mule filling station"; there a trough, with water hand-pumped from a well, provided the necessities. Alongside the tracks of The Chester and Lenoir Narrow-gauge Railway on Broad Street were neatly stacked piles of wood, fuel for the mighty iron and steel behemoths powering the trains.

Within this period, a unique institution was organized—a moving bank. Two stalwart pioneers, John H. Craig and Laben L. Jenkins, were the bankers, their deposits and cash on hand safely stored in money belts about their waists. These two offered banking facilities, a needed service.

Electric lights would not gleam in Gastonia until 1900 and the only running water over any distance coursed through several creeks in town, but telephones, however, were here in 1896. Thirty of the newly-invented contrivances were in as many houses. These early telephones consisted of long wooden boxes with crank and were attached to the walls.

No automobiles would pollute the air, cause

Rev. J. B. Carpenter, 1885  
picture on page 9

No pictures available of  
Rev. J. M. Lumley  
1886-1888

Rev. J. B. Bailey, 1889

Rev. D. P. Tate  
1890-1891

traffic congestion, or precipitate head-long flights of horses and mules until 1904, when pioneer citizen B. M. Holland cautiously steered his one-cylinder, steam-powered Oldsmobile into town. Shortly thereafter, R. B. Babington, long an active member of Main Street Church and the moving spirit in bringing the N. C. Orthopaedic Hospital here, guided his one-cylinder, steam-driven Locomobile down the road on Main Street.

But Gastonia was growing. The census of 1890 would show a population of 1,023 and five cotton mills had been established in town prior to 1900.

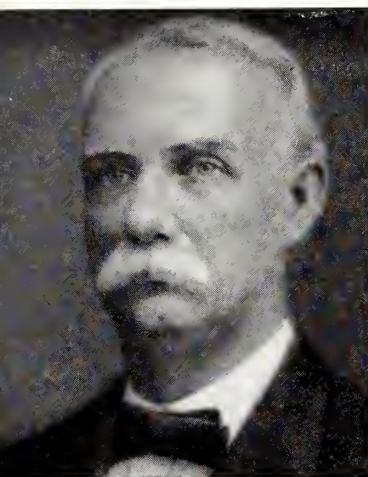
The Reverend J. M. Lumley succeeded the Reverend J. B. Carpenter as pastor of Main Street Church in 1886 and served until 1888. He was followed by the Reverend J. B. Bailey in 1889 and, in turn, by the Reverend D. P. Tate, 1890-1891.

With the appointment of the Reverend C. M. Campbell as Main Street's pastor in 1891, church activities broadened, and though no record is available, membership doubtlessly increased. Mr. Campbell's tenure ended in 1895, but in 1894, Main Street Church erected its first parsonage.

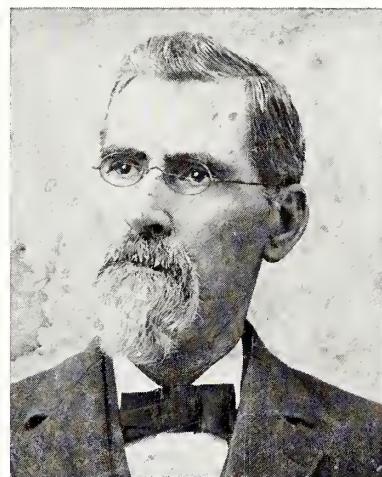
This two-story, frame building, erected at a cost of about \$2,500, occupied a site on Main Street close to the eastern extremity of the present Youth or Educational Building on the ground secured from Oliver Davis. The additional frontage extended 65 feet westward from the original 50 foot frontage occupied by the church building. In the same deed, depth was increased to 230 feet along Oakland Street.

By action of the Western North Carolina Conference in 1895, Main Street Church was detached

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF STEWARDS - 1885



George A. Gray, Chmn.



J. A. Huss



C. M. Nolen

from the Lowell Circuit and made a station. The year also marked the appointment of the Reverend W. M. Bagby as pastor of the church. Rev. Bagby served three years or until 1898.

A notable contribution to Gastonia's educational facilities took place during Rev. Bagby's ministry when The Main Street Church membership established the town's first high school with Professor Ben Atkins as its principal. A description of the school and its operation appears elsewhere in this section.

No list of members of Main Street Church of 1885 has been found, but several sources in fact confirm that all church records were destroyed by fire. There is, however, no record of fire damaging the church building. Fortunately, Dr. Forrest Prettyman, in his *Gastonia Gazette* article of 1926, discovered in some manner and compiled a list of the church's first Board of Stewards, of about 1895.

According to Dr. Prettyman, nine members comprised this first Board. His list included Chairman George A. Gray, V. E. Long, Captain J. A. Huss, B. T. Morris, J. T. Spencer, C. M. Nolen, W. H. Jenkins, S. M. Asbury, and W. H. Carroll. Seven of these are identified and their descendants are active members of our present congregation. S. M. Asbury and W. H. Carroll have not been identified and it is reported that both moved from Gastonia shortly after their service on the Board.

With Gastonia's continued growth, the census of 1900 disclosed a population of 4,610; and with its town limits extended, Main Street Church moved to expand its activities by offering aid and encourage-

ment in establishing other Methodist churches in town.

First of such expansions took place in 1897, when Main Street Church aided in the erection of a building for and the organization of the West End Methodist Church. Constructed at a cost of about \$2,500, the building occupied a site on the west side of North Trenton Street and at its intersection with and terminus of West Airline Avenue. The site approximates that now occupied by Parker Brothers Service Station owned by John Parker, an active member of our church.

Mr. Bagby was active in the organization and, from the few records available, it is noted that two other members of Main Street Church, J. H. Separk and the Reverend W. L. C. Killian, then retired, served alternate years as superintendent of the Sunday school. One of the ministers serving West End Church at the time was the Reverend R. M. Hoyle, a cousin of the Reverend John Hoyle, retired and a member of our congregation.

West End Church functioned until 1907 at which time the membership sold the building and grounds. With the sale, an amicable division took place; part of the membership, retaining the church name, organized a church on West Franklin Avenue. In 1958, it became *The Covenant Methodist Church* and today occupies a beautiful building also on the West Franklin Avenue site.

Others of the West End Church congregation organized *The Franklin Avenue Methodist Church* and erected a church building on West Franklin Avenue. In 1950, the congregation erected a hand-

some building on West Franklin Avenue now the church home of The Bradley Memorial Methodist Church, the name adopted when the new edifice was built.

There is an interesting aftermath incident to the sale of the West End Church building in 1907. It was sold to the Crossroads Methodist Church, North, then occupying a site on the corner of West Airline Avenue and North Highland Street, and sometimes known as the "Old White Church." The Crossroads Church moved the building to this location, and in comparatively recent years, this building became a part of "The Tabernacle," its pastor, the late Reverend Earl Armstrong. Involvement of the Northern Methodist Conference dates from the rift in Methodism following the outbreak of the War Between the States when the Northern group established a conference in this area.

Another transition period occurred with the appointment of Dr. George H. Detwiler as pastor of Main Street Church in 1898. Within the next two years, the little church building would be razed, additional grounds would be acquired, and a much larger church building would rise on the location. Methodism would continue to expand within the town. The church would continue to grow.

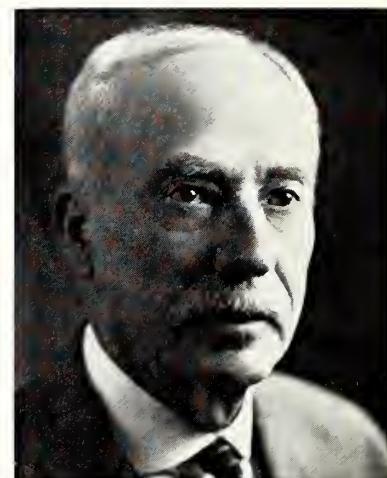
With the passing of the small church, an era would be nearing an end. The ways and means and the conduct of services in the average small Protestant church in small towns and rural communities would change. Most of our present congregation will not have other than an academic knowledge of Methodism in action in these long ago yesteryears, unique as compared to the present. Main Street Church of 1885, Shiloh Church, together with those of this size throughout the South, fit into the picture of churches during those years.

That this early phase of Methodism's development, a phase that will not recur, might be preserved at least in word-picturization, turn again to look into our history. The accommodations, appointments, facilities, the conduct of the services in and around these small churches will doubtless appear strange, almost primitive, in comparison with the affluence, the conditions, and life generally of today. For this look into the past there could be no more appropriate vantage point than a position in a well-cushioned pew within the sanctuary of the magnificent edifice in which we are privileged to worship today.

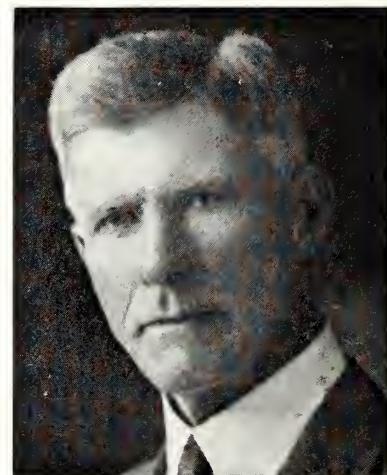
## 1885 Board Members



V. E. Long



B. T. Morris



W. H. Jenkins

So that a measure of proportion between the church of 1885 and the present one might be established, consider the beautiful altar-choir recess before you. Granted an approximate ten-foot extension from the altar rail to the rear and an equal grant of length between the choir enclosures, there would be sufficient space for the entire sanctuary and pulpit of the Main Street Church of 1885. So much for size.

Most of the small churches of these years were of frame construction and usually a large portion of the membership joined in volunteer labor in their building. At the head of the steps leading to the vestibule dangled the bell rope, connecting link with the church bell far above in the belfry. The bell, in addition to its summoning-to-worship use, usually doubled as the community's fire alarm system.

The churches were not havens of physical comfort but even in this period of antiquity, there was "air conditioning!" Women-folk of these times sought to combat summer's heat in a church with a handy implement—the fan. Styles ranged from the ultra-fashionable, accordian-pleated, folding type to a large model of wider influence, the "palmetto." Waved vigorously, these moved large quantities of air from one place to another. And commercialism often invaded the pews in the form of pasteboard fans adorned and decorated with enticing advertisements extolling the virtues of sundry merchandise, especially medicines to cure the ills of man or beast.

Against winter's cold, a type of stove much in favor then for places of assembly was usually standard equipment in these churches. This generator of heat had a name which, though sadly lacking in euphony, was definitely descriptive—"pot-bellied." Chunks of pine knots, sometimes even coal, produced such heat that those seated nearby were practically parboiled; backsliders usually shivered.

Flickering kerosene lamps in sidewall sockets or overhead and hanging from the ceiling, illuminated these churches for night services. The lamps were also an added attraction for myriads of airborne insects, their ingress being by way of open windows without screens. Cleaning, care, and nourishment of the many lamps usually fell to the lot of members of the women's circles, a fixed Saturday afternoon chore.

The one-room schoolhouse of a century or so ago had its counterpart in the Sunday schools of the small churches where all classes were conducted in the only room available, the sanctuary. Small fry, intermediates, the adults shared benches or pews,

Additional members of the Board of Stewards in 1885 whose pictures are not available:

*J. T. Spence  
R. H. Carroll  
S. M. Asbury*

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each in close proximity to the other. The outside dimensions of the Main Street Church of 1885, 48 by 32 feet, offer a basis for calculating the teaching and reading room inside.

Dr. Forrest Prettyman, reminiscing in the Gastonia *Gazette* article of previous reference, observed that there was "rousement" in the church services of these early years; and preserved accounts, even a number of personal recollections, bear witness to the highly emotional reactions of the congregations. As exhorters held forth, loud and frequent "amens" came from the audience; there was shouting and crying aloud. Should the preacher on occasion reach a particular height of declaration, shouts of "Glory Hallelujah!" added a verbal exclamation mark to his words.

Preachments usually reflected firm adherence to fundamental doctrine, positions that were intrinsically unyielding, a quality equally apparent in the polished hardwood pews. And brimstone was considered synonymous with all-consuming fire.

Since hymn books were few and far between in the years of the "preaching places" and in such small churches as Shiloh, songs were "lined out" by a leader. Reciting the first verse and "pitching the tune," he joined with the audience in singing the verse he had recited.

In time, there came the ultimate in progress—pianos. Usually an upright and normally of uncertain sound, it became the musical standby of the small church. A few congregations featured a little organ, its internal mechanism activated by organist foot-power. Others progressed to the extent of an organ equipped with a pump-handle whereby power was supplied, the operator usually a small boy serving voluntarily.

With the piano came hymn books; and with this combination—congregation singing. Choirs took the place of the song leader and his "lined out" hymns, and congregations responded enthusiastically and with fervor. Hearty songs of the spirit, of the old-time religion, contributed to emotional manifestations. "When the Roll is Called up Yonder," "How Firm a Foundation," "Amazing Grace," "Rock of

Ages," and others of the old songs so cherished and loved in those yesteryears, expressed their faith and hope.

In offering a view of the small town of long ago, of the early years of Gastonia, and of the appointments and services in the small churches then, departures into levity or lightness in description are emphatically not with intent to disparage or ridicule. Allowing for variation in slight degree, these portrayals are "from whence we came," the way of life and of worship of our people in those years. Our inheritance, materially and spiritually, is great; our indebtedness to those who lived and wrought then is equally so.

From the files of the *Gazette* and from J. H. Seppark's history, Main Street Church membership in the period just prior to 1900 numbered an estimated 225. Under the administration of Dr. George H. Detwiler, a further extension of Methodism was effected; aid and encouragement was given in the establishment of the "East End" or "Ozark Church" on East Ozark Avenue. The exact date is uncertain, but the organization and erection of a building probably occurred about 1900. Some 50 years ago the church name was changed to *Faith Methodist Church*, which now occupies a handsome building near the site of the old Ozark Mill and the present Wix Corporation.

By deed of conveyance from Oliver W. Davis in 1900, an additional 89 foot frontage on Main Street was acquired. This westward extension, originating at the parsonage lot purchased in 1894, brought the total Main Street frontage to 204 feet. The deed also provided for an extension in depth along Oakland Street to bring this total to 250 feet.

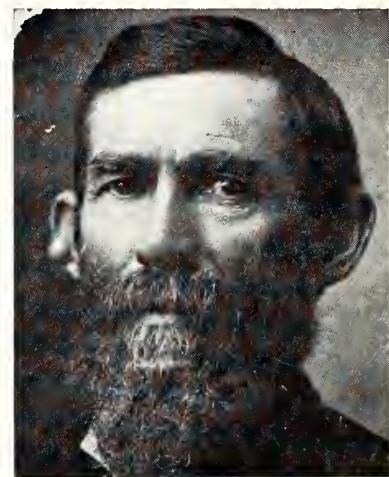
Apparently, construction of the new building, church home of the Main Street Church of 1900, began early in that year and it is probable that the congregation of Main Street Church of 1885 again made use of The Academy as a place of worship until the new building was occupied in December of 1900.

The dedication and the faith with works of men and women who had built and rebuilt Shiloh's log house, strengthened and firmed by these and their successors in establishing Main Street Church of 1885, continued as a vital, moving force. The magnificent structure erected in 1900 would stand for fifty-six years, the church would prosper materially and spiritually, and the foundation conceived and kept within the hearts and minds of its people would sustain and support even to greater achievement.

—By Dameron H. Williams

## OAKLAND HIGH SCHOOL

1896-1901



Prof. Ben E. Atkins  
First Principal

The Methodist Church from its very beginnings has placed strong emphasis on education, so it was not unusual that the young congregation of Main Street Methodist Church should become involved in attempting to provide more adequate educational opportunities in the small community of about 3,000 persons which was Gastonia in 1896. The Conference of the year before had made Main Street Church a station for the first time and had appointed as its first full time pastor, the Rev. W. M. Bagby.

Education in those days, in the smaller communities at least, was strictly a private enterprise. There was in Gastonia at that time only one school offering the high school grades. This was the Gaston Academy, located on a lot on Oakland Street adjacent to Main Street Church on the south side. This school had no church affiliation.

Upon arriving in Gastonia, the Rev. Mr. Bagby saw the need for a church-connected high school and made the opening of such a school a primary goal of his ministry. As a result of these efforts, Professor Benjamin E. Atkins, a brother of Bishop James Atkins of the Methodist Church, South, was brought to Gastonia in the fall of 1896 to head the new school. A

six-room brick building was constructed at the corner of Second Avenue and Oakland Street at a cost of \$4,000. The gift of the land by Oliver W. Davis and the substantial contribution of George A. Gray made the erection of this building possible.

Work on the building was not begun until after Professor Atkins arrived here in August, 1896. He states in his diary under August 20 that he "assisted Mr. Robert Rankin in laying off the Oakland High School building on Oakland Street and Elm Street (now Second Avenue) in the southeastern part of Gastonia."

On September 24, five weeks later, the building was sufficiently finished for the school to open. There were eighty-four pupils in attendance and the teachers in addition to Professor Atkins were Miss Loulye L. Gains, of Burkville, Virginia; Miss Eugenia Thrower of Henderson; and Miss Lollie Shuford of Gastonia.

The contribution of Main Street Church toward the operation of Oakland High School consisted of providing the physical facilities, and the principal or operator of the school was dependent upon the tuition paid by the students for operating expenses, teachers' salaries, and his own remuneration. A part of the principal's job was to "educate" the parents of the community to the desirability of sending their children to school and paying the tuition.

At the close of school in 1898, Professor Atkins resigned to accept the presidency of Athens Female College in Athens, Tennessee, his home town, and Professor Joseph H. Separk came from the Charlotte Military Institute to take his place. Mr. Separk operated the school for three years and in the summer of 1901, the City of Gastonia bought the property for \$4,000 and in September opened in that building the first public school in Gastonia. This also brought about the closing of Gaston Academy and Main Street Church bought this property at that time.

The advisory board of Oakland High School appears to have been for the five years of its operation: George A. Gray, Chairman; W. H. Lewis, Secretary; and W. H. Jenkins.

—By Ennis Atkins

## 1885 CHURCH



This rare old photo shows the little brick church of 1885 that stood on the corner of Main Avenue and South Oakland Street.

## THE CONFERENCE DAILY

Among several publications of historic interest in our church archives are five copies of *The Conference Daily*. This publication was gotten out during the twelfth session of the Western North Carolina Conference held in the new Main Street Church in Gastonia in November, 1901. The editors were J. H. Separk, R. L. Owenbey, and J. A. Baldwin and it was published by Glenn and Loftin Co., of Gastonia. Subscriptions for the five editions were modestly priced at 25¢ for the five copies.

Senior citizens of our city will remember the names of many of the old firms who advertised. Included are: Hanna Brothers (liverymen), L. Thompson and Son (shoe repairs), Page Lumber Co., W. N. Davis (marketman), Long Brothers (stoves), Kindley-Belk Bros. Co., Gastonia Hardware Co., Craig and Wilson (horses, mules, wagons), J. H. Kennedy & Co., (druggists), Robinson Brothers (clothing and shoes), J. E. Curry & Co. (druggists), J. Q. Holland & Co. (clothing), G. W. Howell Co. (fresh fruits), Gaston Iron Works, George A. Jenkins (quick delivery grocer), J. Flem Johnson & Co. (coal, oil, grains) and several additional advertisers of that day.



MAIN STREET METHODIST CHURCH

1900 - 1956

# Beyond Shiloh

## Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South - 1900

Near the eastern extremity of the hallway extending west in our church of today and placed low in the north wall, there is a seventy-year-old cornerstone bearing this inscription:

*The Main Street Methodist Church  
July 30, 1900*

On that day, in that year, members of the Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South, of Gastonia placed this cornerstone in the foundation of the building that would be their church home for fifty-six years. The small building that had been their place of worship for fifteen years had been razed to make room for this large, handsome structure; its site approximated that of the old building but additional land having been acquired, the new building and grounds occupied a greatly enlarged area.

In 1956, when this building was removed to make way for the magnificent edifice we occupy today, a committee from the church opened the cornerstone container, listed its contents, and replaced them in the receptacle, which they resealed and inserted in the hallway wall.

Unless by design or some unusual happenstance, the receptacle will not be reopened for many, many years. In the interest of a record and information, then, a listing of the contents follows:

A copy of the Methodist Discipline of 1898; a copy of the Nashville, Tennessee Christian Advocate of July 26, 1900; an engraved invitation to the laying of the cornerstone; a copy of the Greensboro, North Carolina Christian Advocate of July 25, 1900; a list of the officers of the church as of that date; a copy of the Gastonia Gazette of July 26, 1900; a copy of the Gastonia News of July 27, 1900; and the contract for the copper container inside the cornerstone.

In the arduous and often fruitless search for authentic records of the early history of our church, articles and reproductions of articles by



Dr. George H. Detwiler  
1898-1901  
First pastor of 1900 Church

the late J. W. Atkins in his Gazette publication have been of inestimable value; and we are greatly indebted to the late Mrs. J. M. Sloan for preserving a number of these, and especially to her daughter, Miss Christine Sloan, for making them available.

An article in the Gazette of March, 1956, a reproduction of one in an issue of the year 1901, contains an account of the ministry of Dr. George H. Detwiler, pastor of the Main Street Church 1898-1900, in the interim and leading to the erection of the church building. Another of the same date contains a description of the building.

Quoting, condensed and abridged in part, from the first article:

"After having served the church for three years (1895-1898), Mr. Bagby was succeeded by Dr. George H. Detwiler. The work already inaugurated was carried forward by Dr. Detwiler. He gave great service to the school (Oakland High School established by Main Street Church of 1885) and renewed impetus to the church, and crowned his work by building a magnificent \$20,000 church. The cornerstone of this church was laid in July, 1900, and the building was rapidly pushed to completion, being formally opened for services on Sunday,

December 30, 1900. The opening sermon was preached by Bishop W. W. Duncan who had dedicated the old church.

"During his ministry, Dr. Detwiler added largely to the membership of the church and raised, in addition to the \$20,000 which represented the cost of the new church, a Twentieth Century Fund of more than \$1,000. . . . It was the pleasure of the church to entertain the annual conference in 1901."

Dr. Detwiler was transferred to the pastorate of a Charlotte Methodist church in 1901; but part of his family, his daughter, Mary, came back to Gastonia to live. In 1902, she married the late John L. Beal, who was active in Main Street Church for many years, and in the years 1918-1922 served as Chairman of the Board of Stewards. Their son, the late Giles Beal, also served in that capacity in 1953-1955. His wife, the former Amy Sue Jacobs, is a member of our present congregation. Others of the John L. Beal family in the membership of our church include a daughter, Louise, and her husband, Lloyd Moore, and another daughter, Sara, with her husband, Eugene Murray.

The Main Street Church building erected in 1900, even in comparison with modern standards, was an unusually well constructed, beautifully designed edifice and its accommodations, appointments, and facilities were not only outstanding for its time but in many respects were appropriate even for today.

In reproducing the descriptive account of the church building in the Gazette, Mr. Atkins added a note stating that the article had originally appeared in *The Oaklandite*, a publication compiled by the senior class of the old Oakland High School. Dated in January, 1901, the article was signed "Amicus," a pen name publisher Atkins suspected as belonging to the late J. H. Separk, then principal of the school.

Slightly abridged, the article follows in that part devoted to description:

"The Methodist people of Gastonia are to be congratulated upon the completion of their new, elegant church. This is the third house erected by this Society within the present bounds of the town, and there are members

who have aided in the building and enjoying the privileges of all three.

"It is almost purely Gothic in style, with extreme dimensions of 100 by 65 feet. The Sunday School department is in the front of the building and so arranged as to give each class a separate room for recitation. This, with other modern conveniences, gives it the facilities of a modern Sunday School.

"The auditorium is rectangular in form with bowled floor and circular seating. It is finished in polished oak and presents a plain but elegant appearance. The seating capacity of the church is 500, and, with the addition of the Sunday School rooms, 1,000 people can be comfortably seated with easy view and hearing of the speaker. Back of the auditorium is the choir recess in which stands a large pipe organ, rich in tone and elegant in finish. On the other side of the choir recess may be found the ladies' parlor and the pastor's study, while below there is a large, well-lighted room for the use of the Epworth League. The building is heated by hot air furnace and is lighted by electricity."

George A. Gray, an outstanding leader in the 1900 church, and his wife, gave the new pipe organ for the church. Mr. Gray was a leader in the textile industry of that time, an outstanding citizen of the community and a strong supporter of the new church.

Stained glass windows of the memorial type, were on the building's front and two sides. Only two, according to available sources, were formal memorials, one on the west side bore the names of George A. Gray, his wife, and their daughter, Mrs. J. H. Separk. Another window within the east wall was inscribed with the names of Oliver W. Davis and his wife, Lydia.

A center aisle divided the circular seating arrangements the length of the auditorium, other aisles extended from both entrances, and smaller aisles provided space along the side walls. To the best of various recollections by many, the carpeting throughout was of dark green material.

The church bell, high in the belfry above the northeast entrance and activated by means of a dangling rope in the vestibule, not only served to invite and welcome worshippers to service,



Rev. H. F. Creitzberg  
1901-1903



Rev. E. L. Bain  
1903-1907



Rev. W. R. Ware  
1907-1908

but the bell ringer also participated in a most unusual and pleasing tri-bell-ringing schedule.

Just which bell operator originated the plan isn't known, but three uptown churches participated; the First Presbyterian, then only a block distant from our church; the First Baptist, three blocks away; and the Main Street Church. As time for the Sunday morning services neared, one of the bell ringers, evidently by pre-arrangement, tolled his bell twice, then paused; a moment's interval and the second church bell tolled and paused; another moment and the third church joined with its toll. Repeated in order, the tri-summons to worship offered a unique and pleasantly melodious invitation.

As successor to Dr. Detwiler, the Reverend H. F. Creitzberg was appointed to the pastorate of Main Street Church in 1901. He served until 1903.

Of the next pastor to serve the church, the *Gazette* published an account:

"The Reverend E. L. Bain was appointed to the pastorate of this church in 1903. In several months of service he has shown himself a preacher of power and consecration and has labored diligently for the spiritual and material good of the church.

"Within the two quarters just closed, that is within six months, he has liquidated the debt on the parsonage. (The \$20,000 indebtedness incurred in building the church was retired as the church was completed in December of

1900.) Besides this, there has been raised during the quarter just ended for other purposes, \$3,400. In addition to which \$1,400 is pledged to be paid in November, which will make a grand total of \$7,400. (The difference was evidently the amount owed on the parsonage.)

"In six years, this church has raised for all purposes \$40,000, an average of \$6,775 per year. The membership of the three Methodist churches is as follows: Main Street, 350; West End, 227; Ozark (Faith), 169, making a total of 746. Each church has a flourishing Sunday School and other auxiliary societies."

A list of the 1903 Board of Stewards with J. H. Separk as chairman, included J. Kelly Dixon, treasurer; R. B. Babington, secretary; A. R. Anders, George Gray, B. T. Morris, S. M. Morris, C. M. Nolen, J. A. Glenn, and W. H. Jenkins.

All indebtedness having been retired, Main Street Church was dedicated in 1904. Dedication observance began on June 6 and continued through the 12th, a week of services in which a number of former pastors returned to join in the series of meetings. Bishop A. W. Wilson presided and preached on the last day of services, Sunday, the 12th.

A member of our congregation, John R. Huss, has an original copy of the bulletin issued on that occasion. The copy was preserved and given to him by his grandfather, Captain J. A. Huss, a member of the 1895 Board of Stewards. This is probably the oldest of our church bulletins in existence.

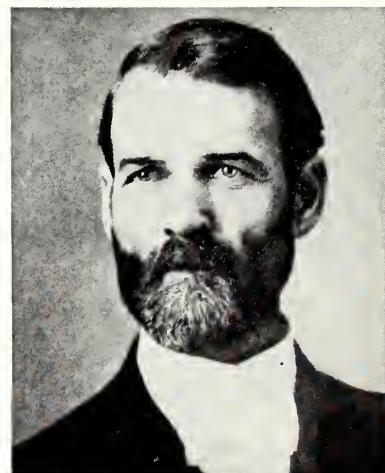
With the continued growth of Gastonia, three other denominations established churches in this period. According to J. H. Separk's history, the Lutheran congregation was served by a visiting minister in 1898 and they organized their church in 1901. The Episcopal church was organized here in 1903 and the Catholics, the same year.

The Reverend W. R. Ware succeeded the Reverend E. L. Bain as pastor of Main Street Church in 1907, serving until 1908. He was followed by the Reverend G. D. Herman, 1908-1911, in turn by the Reverend J. E. Abernethy, 1911-1914, and by the Reverend H. H. Jordan, 1914-1918.

Unfortunately, no church records appear to exist concerning the services of these pastors here other than their names and dates. That our church grew and prospered under their administrations is known; the lapse in preservation of records cannot be considered as a reflection upon their services nor their abilities. The Reverend Jordan was the father of four sons and a daughter, each achieving high and well merited prominence. One son, Henry, became a dentist and an industrialist; Frank was ordained into the Methodist ministry; Charles became vice-president of Duke University, and Everett is our junior U. S. Senator from North Carolina. The daughter, Lucy Jordan Taylor, married a physician.

Succeeding Mr. Jordan, the Reverend A. L. Stanford was appointed pastor of our church in 1918 and served until 1922. In the second year of his pastorate, 1919, the old parsonage on Main Street was removed to make room for the present Youth or Educational building erected in 1920.

Most of the lumber from the old parsonage was given in that year to a group of some 20 Methodists who, with the aid and encouragement of Main Street Church, organized the first Trinity Methodist Church, its congregation now occupying a handsome building on South Florida Street. Their church records show that two members of our church, the late Floyd Todd and James W. Atkins, were of great assistance in organizing and furthering the growth of the church.



Rev. G. D. Herman  
1908-1911



Rev. J. E. Abernethy  
1911-1914



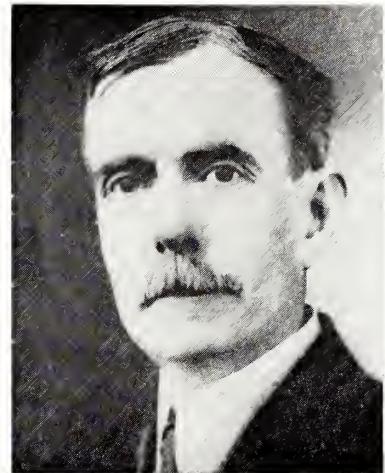
Rev. H. H. Jordan  
1914-1918



Rev. A. L. Stanford  
1918-1922



Rev. W. A. Lambeth  
1922-1924



Dr. Forrest J. Prettyman  
1924-1927

In 1919, the Church acquired "The Academy" plot from the Ragan interests, an area measuring 79 feet along Oakland Street and of a width of 200 feet westward. The grounds extended south from the boundary of the land acquired from Oliver Davis in 1900.

The old parsonage having been removed, the present Youth or Educational building was erected, the greater part of the structure occupying the ground bought from Oliver Davis in 1900. Facing Main Avenue (that status had been attained) the building, completed in 1920, was constructed at a cost of \$120,000.

Originally intended as an addition to take care of Main Street's rapidly growing Sunday school, the building also served as a recreation center. A tennis court was designed and equipped to the rear of the structure and a swimming pool extending nearly the width of the building was constructed inside, below floor level and at the rear. Several years later, the pool was discontinued, a floor installed above it, and the area converted to a class and assembly room. The tennis court was later abandoned.

Completion of the building occurred at a time of severe economic depression affecting the entire nation, especially textiles. Pledges of financial aid, made in good faith by large numbers in our congregation when the building was erected, could not be met. In a brief history of our church, J. W. Atkins wrote of the critical situation: ". . . The 1920 panic struck the coun-

try and many of these pledges were never paid . . . Consequences were that for 25 years a debt of approximately \$100,000 hung over the Main Street Church congregation."

A new parsonage was erected in 1920; built at a cost of approximately \$35,000, the handsome two-story building of brick and stone construction occupied the then recently purchased "Academy" site just to the rear of the church and facing Oakland Street. It is of record that a large portion of the cost, including elaborate furnishings, was met with the aid of the ladies in our church.

Among the many talented ministers serving Main Street Church through the years, Dr. William A. Lambeth was outstanding. Appointed as pastor in 1922, succeeding the Reverend Alfred L. Stanford, Dr. Lambeth, dedicated in service, genial, and possessed of an unusually winning personality, added much to the growth and strength of our church. His many and varied talents brought recognition in high places. After only two years here, he was transferred to the prestigious Mount Vernon Place Methodist Church in Washington, D. C., a position he filled with distinction.

By unusual coincidence, a former pastor of this famous church, Dr. Forrest J. Prettyman, was transferred to Main Street Church as its pastor in 1924 as successor to Dr. Lambeth. Dr. Prettyman came here following service as pastor of the Church Street Methodist Church of

Knoxville, Tennessee, a transfer from that conference. His service in Gastonia lasted until 1927.

During Dr. Prettyman's pastorate in Mount Vernon Place Church, he served as Chaplain of the United States Senate in the administration of President Woodrow Wilson with whom he enjoyed a warm friendship. He was a philosopher, historian, and an intellectual. To his love of the Church he added flowers and music; and, in his advancing years, he added golf to his hobbies. We found his interviews with the *Gazette* of great value in compiling this history.

The Reverend H. G. Hardin followed Dr. Prettyman as our pastor, serving in the years 1927-1929, followed by the Reverend J. Braxton Craven in 1929-1933, and by the Reverend John W. Moore, who served in 1933-1935.

That these three ministers of the Gospel rendered faithful service and that they were zealous in their work as pastors was manifest in the continued growth of the church under their administrations.

Again, there was an unfortunate lapse in specific church records. A fortunate development, however, had its beginning shortly after this year of 1935; a marked improvement in the filing and preservations of church records, heretofore not preserved to any extent, occurred.

Dr. C. Exelle Rozzelle, assigned to the pastorate in 1935, is probably the only native of our immediate neighborhood to serve the church here in this capacity. Born and reared in the nearby Paw Creek section, he enjoyed a wide acquaintance in this county even before his appointment to Main Street Church. His father and mother were among the early residents of this region; their marriage, in fact, took place in the River Bend Methodist Church near Mt. Holly with the Reverend S. J. McLoud, then pastor of Main Street Church of 1885, officiating at the ceremony.

The same year that Dr. Rozzelle became pastor, Lawrence Rankin, an enthusiastic church leader, became chairman of the Board of Stewards. He was instrumental in placing Miss Evelyn Dellinger as full-time church secretary. With her assuming these duties, church records have been meticulously kept since 1935.

Beloved as a pastor, in the full meaning of the term, Dr. Rozzelle was an able administrator and much in demand as a speaker. He served the church for six years. Now, since his retirement, he lives in Winston-Salem, North Carolina, where he continues active as a teacher of the Men's Bible Class in a large Methodist church.

An event of marked historical significance throughout American Methodism occurred in 1939 when the division between the Northern and Southern Methodists was ended. This rift, engendered by the intense emotional reaction brought on by the War Between the States, had existed since the war's outbreak. Agreements between the three major Methodist bodies, that of the North, the South, and the Methodist Protestant Church, at a meeting in Kansas City, Missouri on May 10, 1939, resulted in the unification of these three and a commitment whereby the North and South designations were discontinued. At the same time, the assembly deleted the term "Episcopal" from the church titles.

The Reverend Claude H. Moser literally gave his life in Christian service. Appointed to the pastorate of Main Street Church in 1941 as successor to Dr. Rozzelle, he suffered a fatal heart attack in the sixth year of his tenure while attending to administrative affairs at the church.

Adequate tribute to Claude Moser cannot be expressed in limited space, even in pages. As pastor, minister, and a Christian gentleman, the warmth of his personality were among the many qualities that endeared him to our congregation and to his many other friends throughout the city and county.

A brief but comprehensive history of church compiled by Mr. Moser has been of great benefit in the preparation of this history. Excerpts of value and interest appear elsewhere in other sections of the volume. In particular, and in calling attention to the increase of membership in the church to 1700, he paid special tribute to The Men's Fellowship Club. Of this club, he wrote: "One of the most active organizations is the Men's Fellowship Club. In May, 1942, this club was organized. It has grown from a beginning of 40 members to 225. J. C. Roberts is



Rev. H. G. Hardin  
1927-1929



Rev. J. B. Craven  
1929-1933



Rev. J. W. Moore  
1933-1935

president of this fine group of men. Other officers include P. B. Magruder, vice president, A. H. Austin, treasurer, and Caldwell Winecoff, secretary."

Among the Rev. Moser's great contributions to the spiritual and material welfare of our church, a particular accomplishment was in the launching of an unusually motivated program that ultimately reached great heights of achievement. This impetus was provided in the third year of the Rev. Moser's ministry here and as an added, somewhat casual, observation at the conclusion of his Sunday morning sermon in the course of a regular service. The addendum was not related to the subject of the speaker's address, but thereafter his presentation became widely known as "The Termite Sermon."

The initial shock-wave was gentle. Calmly, as was his custom, the Rev. Moser first reminded the large audience that the building in which they were seated was then forty-four years old and that a certain deterioration was to be expected. There was no balm nor comfort, however, in his observation. Expressing a wavering faith in the stability of elementary support immediately beneath the congregation, he made mention of termites and their voracious appetite for wood, including church wood. The shock-wave gained perceptible momentum when the speaker described the frequently unseen, noiseless operation of these insects as they gnawed through timber until it was reduced to sawdust.

Audience reaction was immediate and definitely apparent. Seemingly, those assembled experienced a certain shifting of concentration; contemplations which may have soared during the services to heights celestial, descended sharply and vertically to consideration of things mundane, specifically the floor underneath the congregation's collective feet.

Apparently, a distinct mistrust of the building's underpinnings developed. Apprehensive glances from pew to pew may have indicated a stirring of the imaginations; some doubtless recalled the Biblical account of the catastrophe that had occurred when noisy trumpets sounded the collapse of Jericho's walls. Noiseless gnawing of termites might well have the same effect.

An obviously subdued and thoughtful congregation wended its way homeward when services were concluded. Many entering the sanctuary that morning, doubtless appreciative of the assurance contained in such olden hymns as "How Firm a Foundation," were departing in a mood indicating a turn to the plea in another old hymn, "Rescue the Perishing."

Beginning in 1944, a definite movement toward raising funds for a new church building was under way. Although plans were tentative at the time, the need for additional space became apparent and, in 1945, with sufficient funds in hand, the church purchased the handsome O. F. Mason home with its grounds. This

property extended 145 feet south on Oakland Street from the boundary of the previously acquired Ragan plot and west for 250 feet.

The large, multi-room Mason residence was converted into an assembly and recreation center, and honoring an outstanding leader in our church, the late Charles W. Gunter, it was named "The Gunter Memorial." A photographic reproduction of the building and a resume of the distinguished church and civic service rendered by Charles Gunter appear elsewhere in this volume.

Dr. Embree Blackard came to Main Street Church as pastor in 1947. Intellectual, profound, and eloquent, Dr. Blackard's long and distinguished career in the Methodist ministry included pastorates in High Point, Charlotte, and a significant tenure of twelve years at Central, Asheville, as well as serving as superintendent of both the Charlotte and Asheville Districts. Now retired, he and his wife are living in Asheville.

In the two years he was pastor here, Dr. Blackard was especially active in our campaign to increase the funds needed for the planned erection of a new church building, and with substantial results. Two active and energetic members of our congregation, W. Carl Rustin and Yates D. Smith, conducted a most successful solicitation. An architect to draw and submit plans for the building, A. Hansel Fink, of Philadelphia, was employed in this period as was Frank Griffin, long a member of our church.

A transfer from the Georgia conference, Dr. Joseph Owen, succeeded Dr. Blackard as Main Street Church pastor in 1949 and served until 1952. Plans for the new church building advanced rapidly under his administration; in November of 1951, a church planning and building committee was officially appointed with Robert H. Pinnix as chairman. The committee included Mrs. W. G. Hamner, John R. Rankin, Giles D. Beal, Harold Mercer, Max A. Parrish, Mrs. W. G. Boyd and Frank B. Griffin.

Another very important committee, that for further solicitation of building funds, was also appointed in 1951. Allen H. Sims was named

chairman. The committee members included Giles Beal, Robert H. Pinnix, Cary C. Boshamer, W. H. Kelley, W. Carl Rustin, A. G. Myers, Lawrence S. Rankin, James T. Comer, R. Grady Rankin, John C. Roberts, and Charles D. Gray.

These committees, abandoning a briefly considered plan to dispose of the church property on Main Avenue, made the decision to erect the new church building on its present site. In furtherance of this plan, the remaining portion of land between the previously acquired Mason home place and Franklin Avenue was, in 1951, purchased from W. A. Dixon of Belmont. This site extended south on Oakland Street approximately 92 feet and 300 feet west on Franklin Avenue. It includes in part the front approach to the building of today.

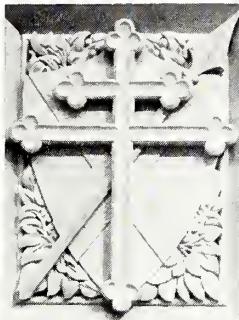
Dr. Owen's dedicated service as minister is well remembered by an appreciative congregation. Many will recall with pleasure a particular custom he followed in the course of the services. When the choir had concluded its musical program and just before the beginning of the sermon, Dr. Owen invariably turned to the group and thanked the members for their contributions to the worship service. Indeed a gracious act. His many fine qualities endeared him to his congregation.

Following Dr. Owen as pastor in 1952, Dr. Wilson O. Weldon came to Main Street Church in a period of complexities. Within the six years he served here, the exacting demands and responsibilities associated with his position were greatly increased. There was a major transition, an ending, and a beginning; the leveling of old foundations, the building of a new one.

In this period, the planning and fund raising committees continued their activities. The parsonage erected in 1920 was razed as well as the old Mason homeplace, "The Gunter Memorial." The historic old building that had been the Main Street Church was demolished, and in its place rose the stately edifice in which we are privileged to worship. In 1958, a new parsonage at 1200 South Street was completed and a temporary parsonage on Patrick Street was



Dr. C. Excelle Rozzelle  
1935-1941



Rev. Claude H. Moser  
1941-1947

vacated. All this took place while Dr. Weldon was pastor.

In order to minimize interruption of usual church services in this period of transference, the old church building was left standing for awhile. With the remaining ground cleared, and following services there on December 5, 1954, a group of church officials and members of the congregation led by Dr. Weldon and the Reverend Clyde Murray, who had been appointed associate pastor that year, conducted ground-breaking exercises on the site of the new building.

Participants in the ceremony included Giles Beal, Chairman of the Board of Stewards; A. G. Myers, Chairman of Trustees; Robert H. Pinnix, Chairman of the Building Committee; and Allen H. Sims, Chairman of the Building Finance Committee. A number of members of the congregation also participated and it is recorded that the assembly was drenched by a torrential rain.

Construction of the new building began early in the following year and by the beginning of summer, the foundation had taken form.

At five in the afternoon of May 15, 1955, the then resident and presiding Bishop Costen J. Harrell, together with Dr. Weldon, the Reverend Clyde Murray, and the Reverend C. W. Kirby, District Superintendent, led a large and representative assembly of former pastors of the

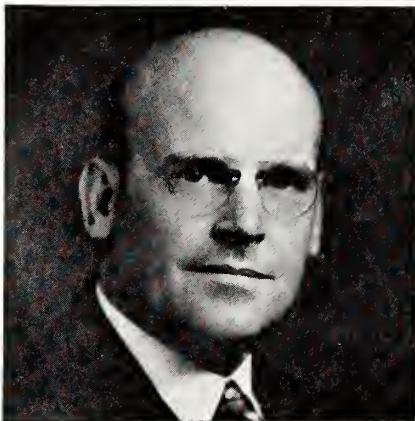
church and numerous other members in the solemn and impressive ceremony of the laying of the cornerstone within the foundation of the rising edifice.

Others participating in the exercises included chairmen of the respective committees noted in a foregoing paragraph about the ground-breaking. In attendance also were John R. Rankin, Chairman of the Cornerstone Committee and R. Bain Jenkins.

Members of the now termed *Official Board*, together with five former pastors of our church participated in the services. The group of ministers included the Reverend G. D. Herman, the Reverend John W. Moore, Dr. C. Excelle Rozzelle, Dr. Embree Blackard, and Dr. Joseph Owen. Mrs. Claude Moser, widow of the Reverend Claude Moser, also took part.

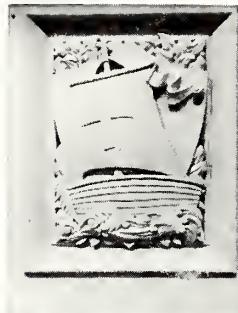
Ceremonies and plans incident to the laying of the cornerstone were arranged by the Cornerstone Committee. The members included John R. Rankin, chairman; Mrs. J. Flay Bess, W. G. Killian, Richard V. McPhail, Albert G. Myers, Jr., Dr. Charles H. Pugh, Mrs. Floyd C. Todd, and Giles Beal.

Twenty-six items of memorabilia were sealed in the receptacle embedded in the foundation wall near the southeast entrance of the present building. Every print, photograph, letter and article reflects something of the economic conditions, the culture, the philosophy, church dis-



Dr. Embree H. Blackard

1947-1949



Dr. Joseph Owen

1949-1952

ciples, religious beliefs, and the way of life in the times in which all these were produced.

In some instances, the list of contents of the container indicates in parenthesis the name of the person presenting the article for inclusion. If the names were available, they were shown in the following list.

The Holy Bible (R. H. Pinnix); the Methodist Hymnal (A. H. Sims); the Methodist Discipline, issue of 1952 (A. G. Myers); Journal of the 1954 session of the Western North Carolina Conference (Giles Beal); History of Gaston County (John R. Rankin); Historical Records of Main Street Methodist Church (Cary Boshamer); roll of church membership (Miss Evelyn Dellinger); listing of official committees (Giles Beal); Bulletin of May 15, 1955 (Frank Griffin); May 12 issue of The North Carolina Christian Advocate (R. H. Pinnix); a duplicate of the Advocate (John R. Rankin); photograph of church building (Dr. C. H. Pugh and publishers of The Gastonia Gazette); copy of The Gaston Citizen of May 13, 1955 (A. H. Sims); copy of The Gastonia Gazette of May 12, 1955; an assortment of coins (Basil McGhee); The Local Church in Methodism (Bishop Costen J. Harrell); a prayer book (Mrs. Claude Moser, widow of the Reverend Claude Moser).

Included also were letters from Bishop Costen J. Harrell; Dr. Wilson O. Weldon, our pastor, the Reverend C. W. Kirby, district superintendent; the Reverend Clyde Murray, associate pastor; and former pastors, the Rev-

erend G. D. Herman, the Reverend John W. Moore, Dr. C. Exelle Rozelle, Dr. Embree H. Blaekard, and Dr. Joseph Owen. The container was a gift of R. Bain Jenkins.

The Reverend Clyde E. Murray came to Main Street Church as associate pastor in 1954; our church was blessed with his services for thirteen years, an unprecedented term in this capacity here. His service extended through three pastoral administrations, and until his retirement from active ministry in 1967. At that time, he and Mrs. Murray moved from Gastonia and established their home in Franklin, North Carolina.

An assay of Clyde Murray's character, of his Christian service, of his beneficent influence, is difficult, by reason of the inadequacy of the written word. Zealous as a minister of the Gospel, his many fine qualities were especially manifest as a pastor. To the bereaved he brought comfort and to the sick at heart, a renewal of spirit and hope. With it all, he spread the gospel of goodwill among men.

On September 1, 1956, The Main Street Methodist Church ceased to be under that name; the building that had served as a house of worship for fifty-six years would be no more.

Next day, a new and magnificent edifice opened its doors. The new church had a new name—The First Methodist Church of Gastonia, North Carolina.

—By Dameron H. Williams

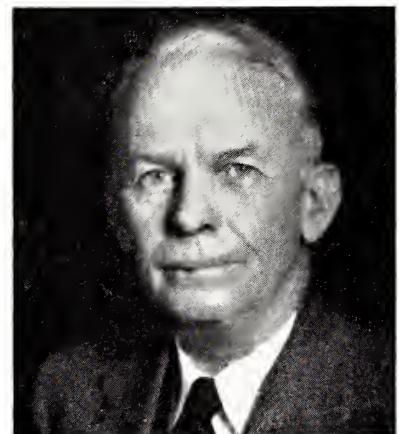


## The Gunter Memorial Building

This beautiful old residence with its spacious grounds was purchased by Main Street Church in 1945. In time to become The Gunter Memorial Recreation Center, the home was formerly that of the late Oscar F. Mason. Facing Oakland Street to the east, a short distance north of Franklin Avenue, the residence occupied part of the site upon which our present building was erected.

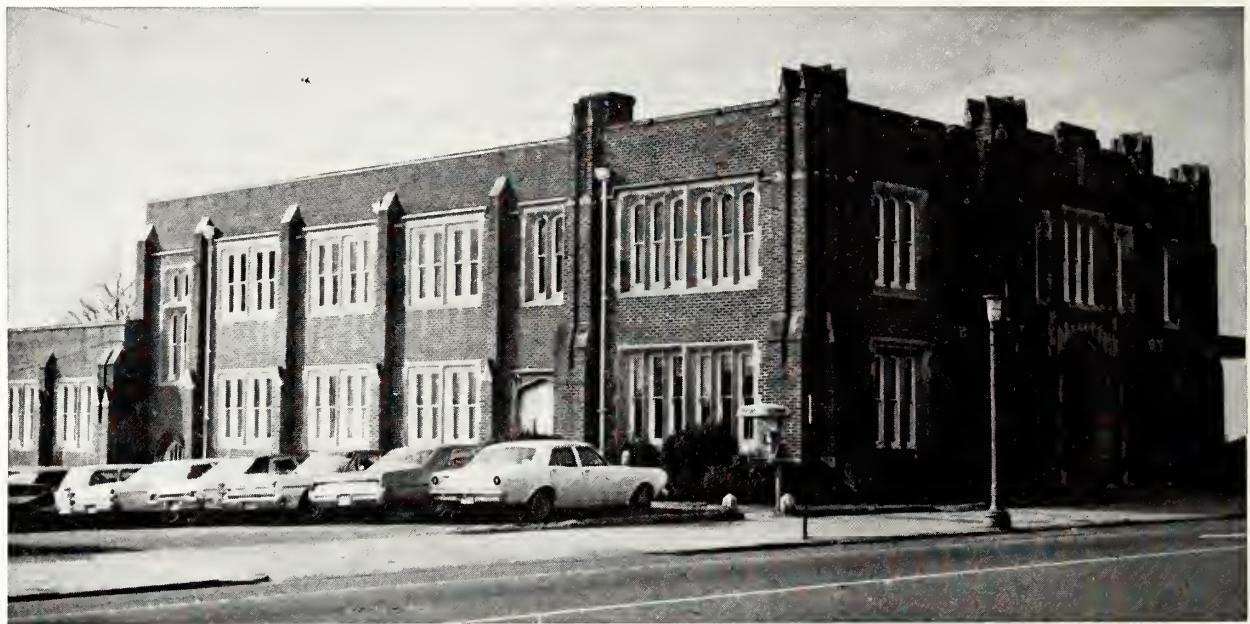
Since there were no plans to build the church of today on this site at that time, a proposal was advanced whereby this large home might be converted into a recreational and social center for the use of our church. Largely through the efforts of Charles W. Gunter, outstanding lay leader in numerous phases of church activities, substantial contributions were made. Within the next year, the home was equipped and furnished with facilities for assemblies, athletic events, social and religious activities. The Center became a popular gathering place; attendance was large in its many activities and it well proved its worth.

On December 12, 1946, the leader whose dedicated effort made the Center possible, Charles W. Gunter, passed away. In most appropriate action, the Board of Stewards upon formal dedication exercises May 14, 1947, officially designated this building and its activities, The Gunter Memorial Recreation Center.



Charles W. Gunter

## The Educational Building



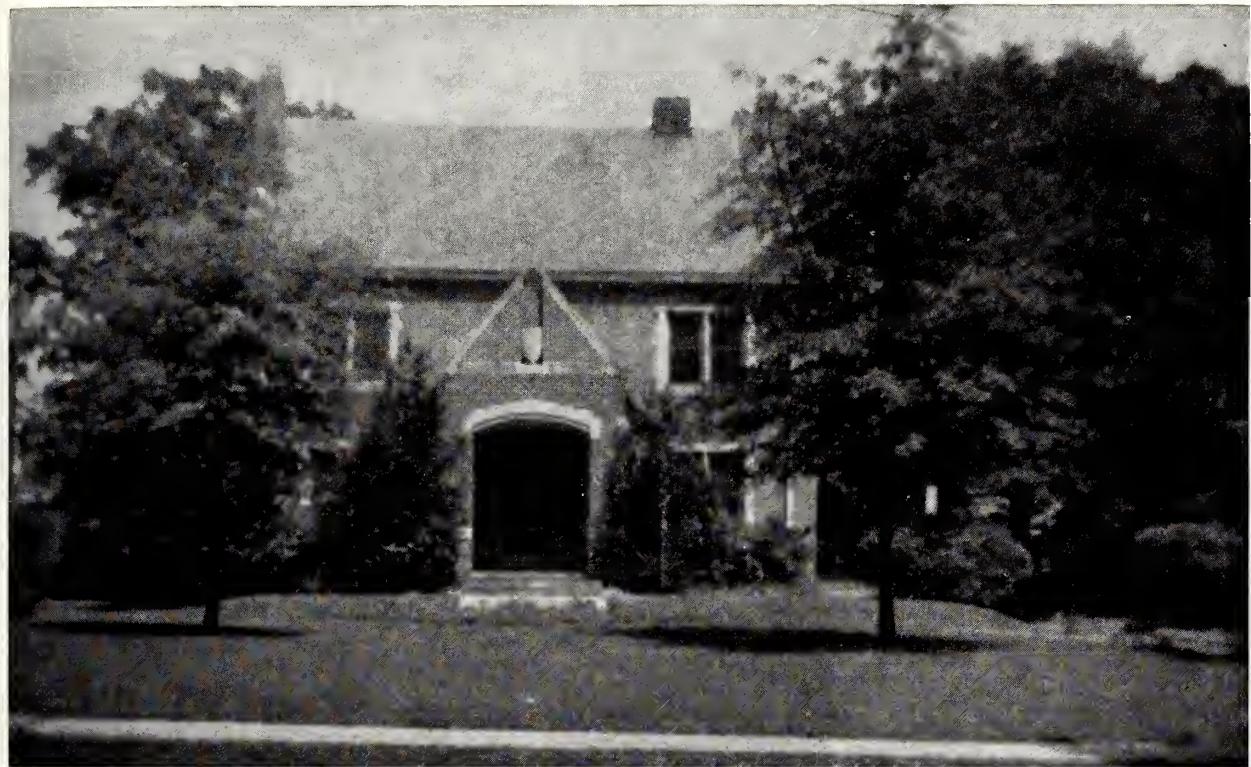
The Educational Building located on East Main Avenue behind the present edifice, was begun in 1919 and completed in 1920. It is of red brick and concrete construction with interior woodwork of hardwood.

It was originally built as a Sunday school building and included an inside swimming pool and other facilities for recreation. Now it is used for the many activities of the Educational Programs of the church.

From a historical standpoint, it is interesting to note that the present Gaston College, located in Dallas, began in this building. The college opened its doors on September 23, 1964 in some of the Sunday school rooms of this building and later moved to its new campus. The college president is Dr. Woodrow Sugg, a member of our church.



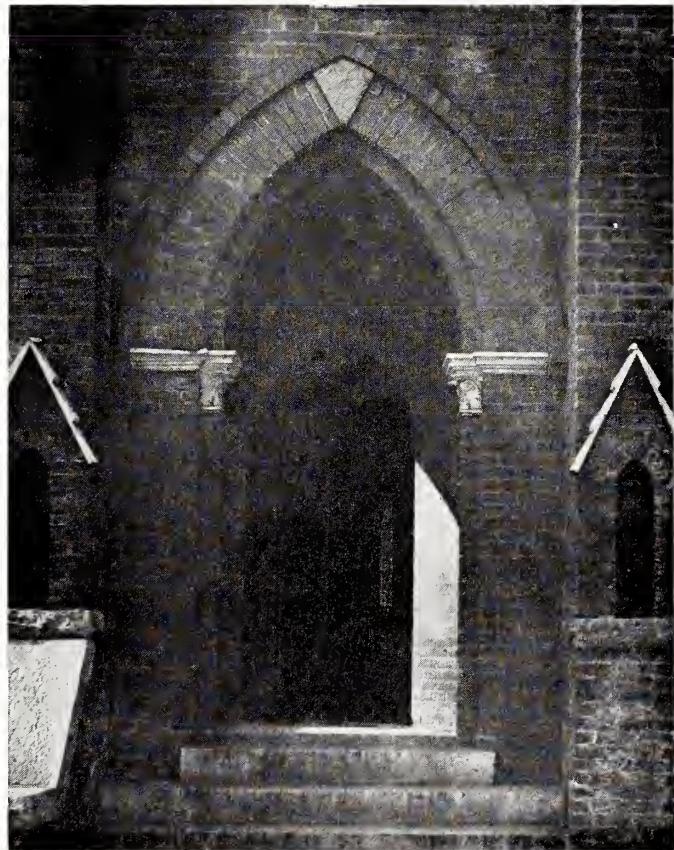
View of Gaston College campus



## Brick Parsonage Built in 1920

Pictured above is the handsome brick and stone parsonage built on South Oakland Street in 1920. It was located directly behind the Main Street Church and served as the home of pastors and families. It was demolished many years later to make room for the present edifice.

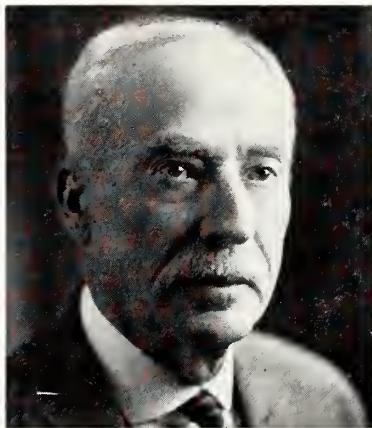
Pictured at right is one of the two main entrances to the old Main Street Church. The granite steps have been trod by countless thousands in their many years of use.



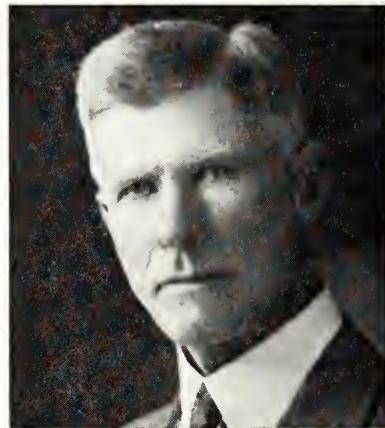
## Chairmen of the Board of Stewards—1903-1957



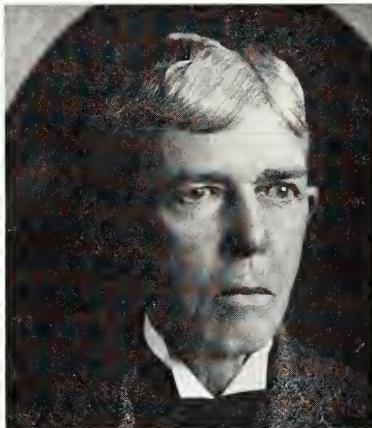
J. H. Separk  
1903-1908



B. T. Morris  
1908-1910



W. H. Jenkins  
1910-1914



J. K. Dixon  
1914-1918



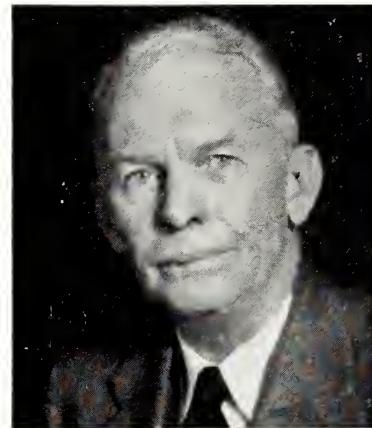
John L. Beal  
1918-1923



G. C. Andrews  
1924-1926



A. J. Kirby  
1926-1928



Charles W. Gunter  
1929-1935



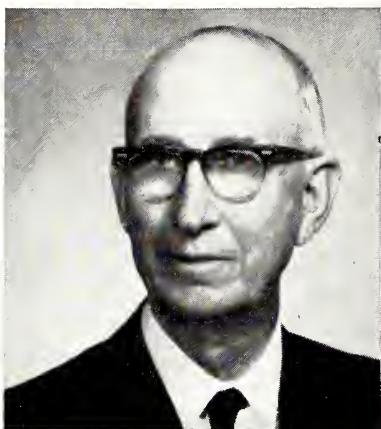
L. S. Rankin  
1935-1938

## Chairmen of the Board of Stewards—1903-1957

(Originally, the Board of Stewards, later The Official Board, since 1968, The Administrative Board.)



E. D. Atkins  
1938-1941



John R. Rankin  
1941-1944



W. Carl Rustin  
1944-1947



R. H. Piinx  
1947-1948



W. H. Kelley  
1948-1949



Dr. E. L. Rice  
1949-1951



Harold Merceer  
1951-1953



Giles D. Beal  
1953-1955



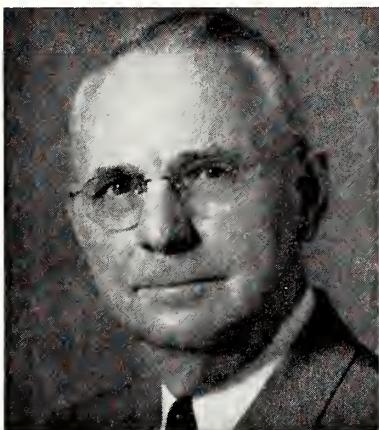
Charles D. Gray  
1955-1957

## IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING SERVICE



A. G. Myers

ALBERT G. MYERS: Banker, industrialist, philanthropist, and an outstanding church and civic leader, Mr. Myers has been an active participant in the growth of the city since coming here in 1905. Now, over 90 years of age, Mr. Myers, before retirement, was a member of the Board of Stewards, and chairman of the Board of Trustees. He has given much financial support to churches and educational institutions as well as financing many college students through scholarships and other grants. He has served his state in many capacities including chairman of the N. C. Ports Authority and other commissions.



Dr. C. H. Pugh

DR. CHARLES H. PUGH: Beloved by many as one of the few remaining "family doctors," Dr. Pugh was for many years active as teacher and Sunday School superintendent and in other offices of the church. He received Masonry's highest honors and was active in civic affairs. Dr. Pugh served as physician on the Draft Board in World War II, giving freely of his time to examine many men going into service. He also served a term as city physician. His services to his church and his community were outstanding.



J. W. Atkins

JAMES W. ATKINS: Long active in our church, together with his wife and family, James W. Atkins, as publisher of *The Gastonia Gazette*, rendered valuable service to our church through the columns of the publication. He contributed greatly in the difficult work of tracing the history of this church. His keen interest in the affairs of the community were especially directed to the advancement of the Gaston County Library on whose board he served and many other civic projects.

FLOYD C. TODD: One of the most active members of the church, he helped organize a sister church, Trinity Methodist. Mr. Todd, owner of Radio Station WGNC and also an outstanding industrialist, left a record unsurpassed in contribution of time, effort and financial support to civic and religious work throughout the county. A gifted musician, he led a church orchestra as well as being a leader of singing in church meetings. Not only did Floyd Todd exert his influence in his own church, but was on call to assist in the programs of other churches.

JOSEPH H. SEPARK: One of the outstanding citizens of the city and state, Mr. Separk was an industrialist, an educator and a worthy civic leader. He was principal of Oakland High School when it was taken over by the town of Gastonia; was the first chairman of the Board of Stewards of our church in 1903; and also served on the Board of Trustees of Duke University. Mr. Separk edited and published a book on the history of Gaston

## TO CHURCH AND COUNTRY – 1900 - 1957 PERIOD

County. His activities in his church work as teacher and superintendent of Sunday School continued for many years.

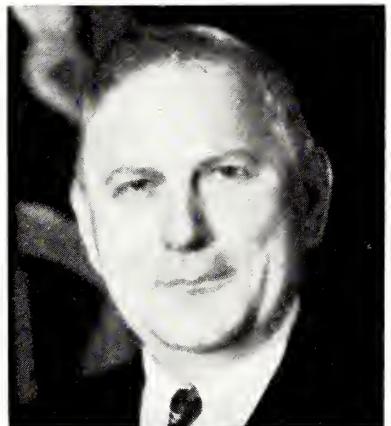
**R. GRADY RANKIN:** Prominent in textile manufacturing for a number of years, he has served our community and state as a Senator in the North Carolina Assembly. He has been equally active in the affairs of our church over the years, being on numerous committees including the Building Finance Committee to raise money for the new church, and the committee responsible for launching this history. Mr. Rankin has served as a member of the Duke Foundation, through which numerous schools and other institutions receive financial aid.

**ROBERT GREGG CHERRY:** A Gastonia attorney who served his country in war and in peace, R. Gregg Cherry was the only Gastonian and a member of this church who became Governor of North Carolina (1945-1949). He was a captain in the army in France in World War I, mayor of Gastonia, speaker of the N. C. House of Representatives, before becoming governor. He also served one term as Department Commander of the American Legion. Governor Cherry's many church activities included teaching in Sunday School and being a member of the Board of Stewards.

**BASIL L. WHITENER:** The only member of our church to serve in the U. S. House of Representatives, his tenure in Congress was from 1957 to 1969. An attorney, he served in World War II as a naval officer on convoy duty in the Atlantic theatre and other locations until the termination of the war. Returning to his home city, he entered into church and civic affairs. Before and since his terms in Congress, Mr. Whitener has been a Sunday school teacher, and has served on the Board of Stewards.



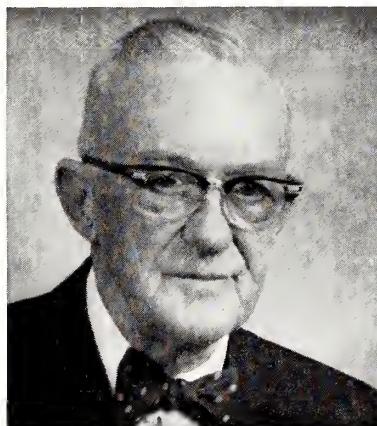
*J. H. Separk*



*R. G. Cherry*



*Floyd C. Todd*



*R. G. Rankin*



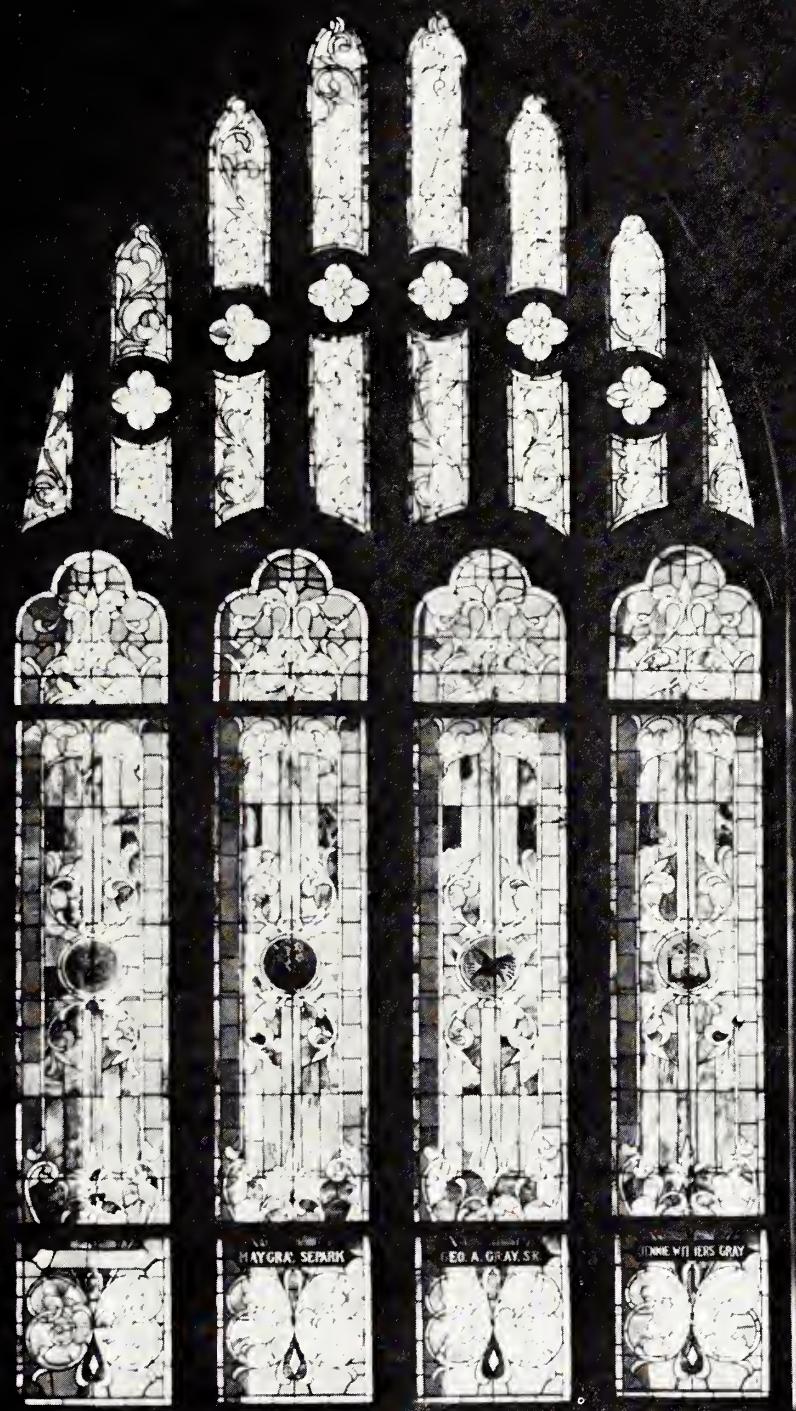
*Basil Whitener*



This view of the pulpit, choir loft and organ pipes of the 1900 Main Street Church will be remembered by many of the present congregation. This picture was made before the Easter service of 1945. Note the two service flags with stars. The organ console was first in the choir loft facing the pipes. Edwin Steckel used the console above the pulpit. Later it was moved to the left side on the audience floor level.



The old 1900 church cornerstone was salvaged when the building was torn down after the new church was built. It is now preserved in the long hall of the Sunday school building.



One of the beautiful stained glass windows in the 1900 church.

# THE BUILDING FINANCE COMMITTEE



*Allen H. Sims  
Chairman*

*Allen H. Sims, Chairman*

Giles D. Beal	A. G. Myers
Carey C. Boshamer	R. H. Pinnix
James T. Comer	L. S. Rankin
C. D. Gray	R. Grady Rankin
W. H. Kelley	J. C. Roberts
W. C. Rustin	

The raising of sufficient funds to build a new church is not an easy task for any congregation. The tremendous program of soliciting and collecting more than \$750,000 over several years and the final liquidation of the church debt, demonstrated the will of the congregation to give generously to its completion.

Fortunate, too, is a congregation who has among its members a man of the caliber of Allen H. Sims to assume the chairmanship of the finance committee that raised the final \$675,000 needed to complete the building project.

In the early 1940's a fund was established for the new church and it began to grow slowly. When the Rev. Claude Moser came to our church, he put a lot of emphasis on this matter and on December 18, 1944, an official campaign was started. By April, 1949 there was the sum of \$140,000 on deposit.

While Dr. Blackard was here in 1947-49, considerable emphasis was placed on the Building Fund, and Dr. Joseph Owen continued the program when he arrived in 1949. Carl Rustin

and Yates D. Smith had headed a committee which raised \$75,000, which amount went into the purchase of the Mason property and some adjoining land.

On November 23, 1951, a Building Finance Committee to raise sufficient funds to construct the new church was appointed. The committee went to work and when Dr. Wilson Weldon arrived in October, 1952, the lot had been purchased for \$100,000 and more than \$200,000 had been pledged for the building. By June 30, 1954, the total was \$460,000. The final bid for the construction of the building was \$719,761 and the remaining funds were raised or pledged before the building was completed and occupied on September 2, 1956.

Of the total final amount, \$150,000 was borrowed to be repaid over fifteen years from two local Savings and Loan Associations, with all the remaining amount being paid in cash. The reason for this loan was that the Church had originally planned to sell the Main Street property, but wisely decided to keep it and borrow the funds which it had originally expected to receive from the sale of the property.

## THE BUILDING COMMITTEE



*R. H. Pinnix*  
Chairman

*R. H. Pinnix, Chairman*  
*Giles D. Beal*  
*Mrs. W. G. Boyd*  
*Frank B. Griffin*  
*Mrs. W. G. Hamner*  
*Harold Mercer*  
*M. A. Parrish*  
*John R. Rankin*

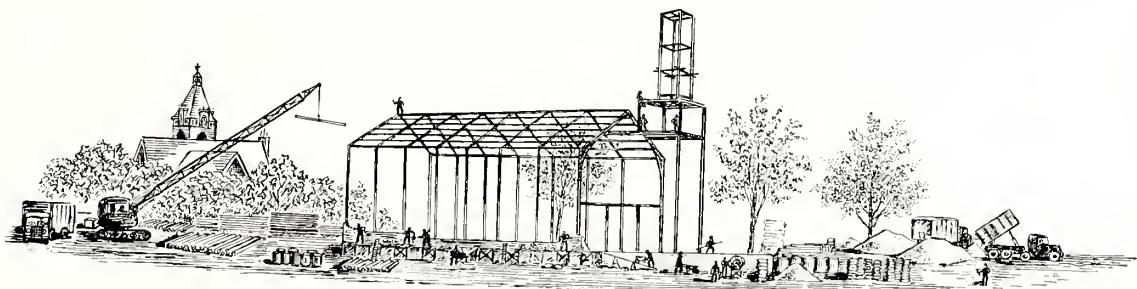


*Frank B. Griffin*  
Assoc. Architect

The First Methodist Church was indeed fortunate to have as members of the Building Committee a highly regarded contractor and an architect of proven ability in his field. Robert Pinnix, as chairman, rendered great service to the church as he headed the committee in supervising the construction of the edifice.

Frank Griffin, as associate resident architect, constantly followed the various phases of construction. He saw that every detail of the plans and specifications prepared by the combined efforts of A. Hensel Fink Company of Philadelphia, Pa., and his own firm in Gastonia was carried out.

The results of the combined efforts of the members of the Building Committee, the architects, the general contractor and sub-contractors materialized in the well-designed and spacious church plant. That the Building Committee has rendered a superb service is visibly evident in the beauty in form and design of the building, and equally so in the completeness of the many essential facilities and appointments. The outstanding achievement is indeed a credit to the chairman and members of the Building Committee.



## THE TRANSITION —



The Silent Sentinel

This picture of the tower of the old Main Street Church was made the day before it was torn down. Many citizens watched sadly the final destruction of the old landmark in Gastonia. Scores of pigeons, inhabiting the tower, circled around their demolished home and finally joined a group in the nearby Presbyterian Church tower. (Photo—Atkins Studio for Textiles Review)

It is with mixed feelings of deep emotion that a church congregation leaves its old home and moves into a new edifice. It was a "red letter" day, indeed, when the members of the First Methodist Church "turned the pages of history," stepped from the old Main Street Church chapter of its long history into a new one—a new church with a new name.

Along with the general rejoicing that the dream of a new church had at last become a reality, there was some sadness as members, particularly those who had grown up in and had served the old church, saw the debris that had been their church home, and the final demolition of the venerable tower.

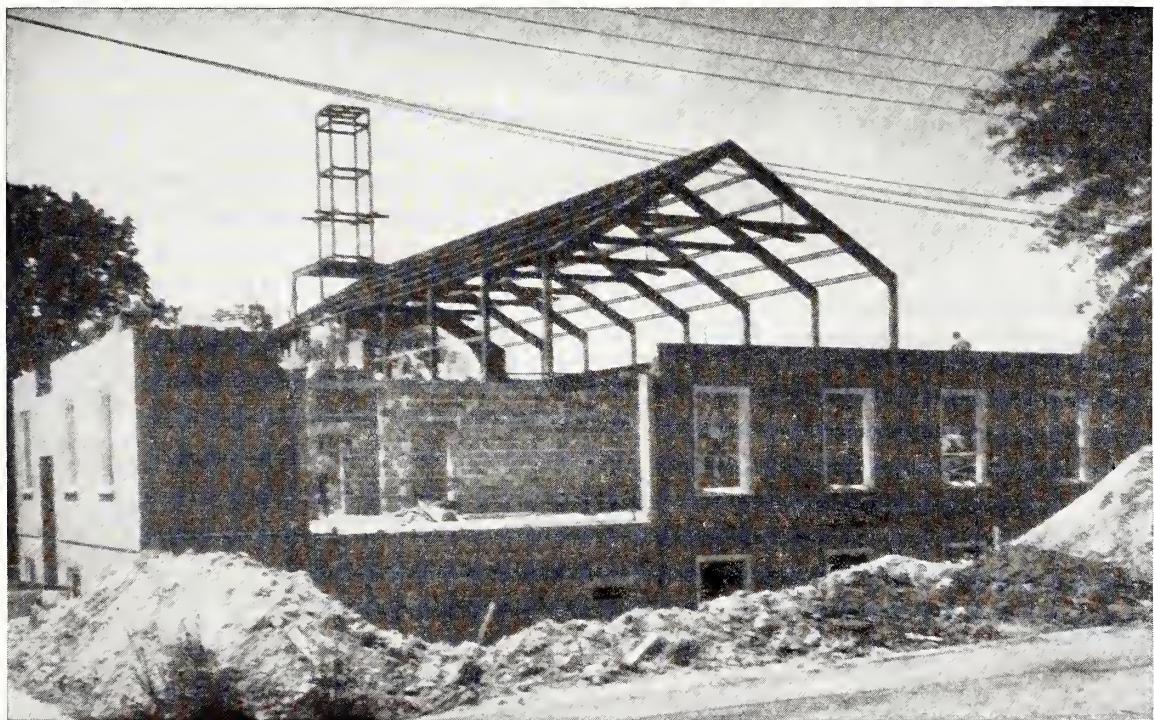
Much history had been written in that old church since 1900. Many leading citizens of the city, both men and women, had worshipped there and had been staunch supporters of its programs. With memories of the past, both pleasant and sad, the congregation entered into a new era as it worshipped in the first service in the new sanctuary.

The transition had taken place. It was the end of the old and the beginning of the new life of the congregation.

## THE END AND A BEGINNING



The cornerstone for the new church was laid May 15, 1955. Pictured at left are, starting at bottom and going counter clockwise: Dr. Wilson O. Weldon, Bishop C. J. Harrell, R. H. Pinnix, Rev. C. W. Kirby, A. G. Myers (behind Bishop Harrell), John R. Rankin (partly out of picture), Rev. Clyde Murray, Dr. C. E. Rozelle, Giles D. Beal, R. Bain Jenkins (partly hidden), R. V. Chiles, and Jack Clevenger.



Construction scene taken from the rear of Sunday School building (Photo—Textiles Review)



These views show the placing of the steel framework on the main auditorium and the church tower.



Steelwork going up, Main Street church shown in the background. (Photos by Ray Hackney)

# FIRST METHODIST CHURCH

ERECTED TO  
THE GLORY OF GOD  
AND  
THE SERVICE OF MANKIND  
IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD  
1955

## BUILDING COMMITTEE

R. H. PINNIX, CHR.  
GILES D. BEAL  
MRS. W. G. BOYD  
FRANK B. GRIFFIN

MRS. W. G. HAMNER  
HAROLD MERCER  
M. A. PARRISH  
JOHN R. RANKIN

## BUILDING FINANCE COMMITTEE.

ALLEN H. SIMS, CHR.  
GILES D. BEAL  
CAREY C. BOSHAMER  
JAMES T. COMER  
C. D. GRAY  
W. H. KELLEY

A. G. MYERS  
R. H. PINNIX  
L. S. RANKIN  
R. GRADY RANKIN  
J. C. ROBERTS  
W. C. RUSTIN

## MINISTERS

WILSON O. WELDON  
CLYDE E. MURRAY

## ARCHITECTS

A. HENSEL FINK  
FRANK B. GRIFFIN

## CONTRACTOR

F. N. THOMPSON, INC.

Large bronze plaque placed in the main vestibule.



Photo—Ray Hackney

## Description of the Exterior of the 1956 Church

In order to give an accurate description of the exterior of the First United Methodist Church, Architect Frank B. Griffin supplied the following information.

The building style is pure colonial in detail and is constructed with native colonial brick with wood trim and slate roof. The entire plant, completed in 1956, contains approximately 60,000 square feet of floor space.

The plant contains a sanctuary seating approximately 900 people, a worship chapel seating 136 people, a meeting and dining room seating 300. It also contains several necessary offices for administration of various church programs and a school to accommodate a congregation of 2,000. Although

the colonial accent has been preserved, the school and work areas are modern in design and equipment, most of which are air-conditioned.

The principal entrance to the sanctuary features a spacious slate patio with planters and steps leading to massive doors into a tapered brick tower which supports the ornate wood structure, the 35-foot white copper spire and stainless steel cross mounted 139 feet above the ground floor.

The land upon which the new edifice was built includes, besides that already owned by the church, additional footage purchased from the O. F. Mason and G. W. Ragan estates, which extended the church property from its northern boundary, East Main Ave., to Franklin Avenue.



The above photo was made from the architect's original rendition which was presented to the church building committee and approved before construction began.



*Color photo by Ray Hackney*

## Interior of the Sanctuary

“How Lovely is thy Dwelling Place, O Lord of Hosts!”

The Sanctuary of The First United Methodist Church is designed with the hope of creating a desire to worship in all who enter it. Within its walls there is a feeling of serenity and reverence, where worshipers may come to an awareness of the glory of God and may be mindful of their sins and need of forgiveness. However, more than suggesting sorrow and regret for past failures, this sanctuary seems to stress the joys of forgiveness and to call forth songs of thankfulness and praise.

Passing through the massive panelled doors of the main entrance, one stands in the spacious narthex. Three doorways lead on into the nave where, waiting near the central entrance, are two ever-open guest books on tall desks. Viewing the large area of the nave beyond with its high elliptical ceiling, its tall arched windows, and observing the impressive chancel, one is made deeply aware of the inspired plan and artistic beauty of this dwelling built for the Lord.

Three long aisles lead from the narthex doorways down the length of the nave ending at the chancel area. Here, looking up, one gazes on the holiest part of the entire church edifice: The sacred altar with the gold star-embossed cross hanging above it.

Looking down from the balcony above the narthex the entire nave appears below. Its walls, ceilings, tall inside shuttered-windows with their grillwork arches, and most of the chancel fur-

nishings are soft white in color. Contrasting with the white background is the deep-red color of the carpeting, pew cushions, and hymnals. Approximately seven hundred persons may be seated in the fruitwood pews on the main floor, one hundred and fifty in the balcony and fifty in the chancel.

Approaching the chancel, we observe on its lower level the communion railing, baptismal font, and a set of missal tables. On the next level to the right is the lectern. To the left rises the pulpit. Behind these on the third level of the chancel are the choir pews and the floor-recessed three-manual organ console.

On the chancel's highest level, we stand before the altar and the cross. Flanking these are panel carvings of the shields of the twelve apostles which are explained in detail on page 61. Atop the reredos rests its central and most important figure: the Agnus Dei or Lamb of God, holding a banner of victory signifying Christ and the victorious nature of His sacrifices.

Gazing at the candle-lit altar, the lifted cross, the ancient Christian symbols, and the Agnus Dei, we are drawn into close communion with our Lord and into fellowship with the saints and martyrs of the past. We seem to hear the voices of their celestial choir echoing down the ages, and we join them in the Psalmist in singing: “Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary!”

By Christine Sloan

# Beyond Shiloh

The First Methodist Church—1956-1968

The First United Methodist Church—1968-1970

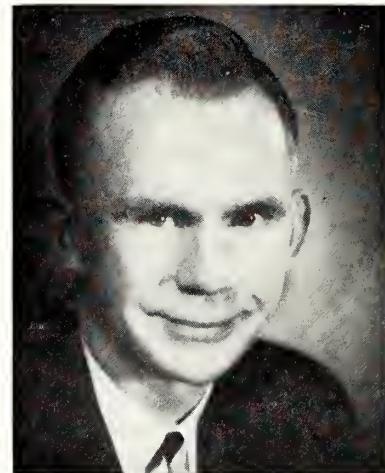
A dream that had its beginning in the hearts and minds of our membership more than a decade past became a reality the morning of September 2, 1956. On that memorable day the imposing edifice in which we worship, new and in all its beauty, was officially opened.

Transition from the former place of worship, the Main Street Church, was effected with a minimum of disturbance of schedule and order of services. The previous Sunday we had worshipped in the old building and the next, in its successor.

The church gained a new distinction that day. Since this present building faces Franklin Avenue, the former association with "Main Street" (Avenue) was no longer appropriate, hence the official name change to *The First Methodist Church*. Another change, that of renaming the Board of Stewards to its present Official Board, took place.

Dr. Wilson O. Weldon, now in his fifth year as pastor, assisted by the Reverend Clyde Murray, associate pastor, presided in the two morning services, one at nine, the other at eleven. As part of the opening exercises, the Litany prescribed for the opening of a church building was recited, the congregation joining in prayer at its conclusion. In compliance with an official declaration, Dr. Weldon read, quoting in part, "In the name of God and in the presence of this congregation, I now declare this church to be open for the worship of God and the service of mankind. . . ."

Open house on Sunday afternoon was attended by large numbers from our congregation and from elsewhere, throngs visited the building and its many separate rooms and departments. The sheer beauty of the church interior, especially the sanctuary, attracted the attention and admiration of the many visitors who came



Dr. Wilson O. Weldon  
Last pastor of the 1900 church—first for the new  
church 1952-1958

to see the outstanding achievement and the design and harmony of color so vividly evident in this part of the structure.

A number of beautiful, appropriate, and serviceable gifts were presented to the church on the occasion of the building's completion and its opening for service. Unfortunately, the complete list is not available. Only a partial listing of gifts by women of the church and described in this history's section devoted to the activities of the women could be found.

The partial list of gifts follows:

Lectern Bible, Revised Standard Edition, bound in red leather was a gift of Dr. and Mrs. Mac G. Anders. Hymnals and small Bible, bound in red leather, for use of ministers, were given by Mr. and Mrs. John C. Roberts. Furnishings for the Senior Class Room were given in memory of Mrs. Vinnie Stewart Atkins by her husband, James W. Atkins, and sons, Ben and Stewart Atkins. The Minister's Study was furnished by Mrs. J. F. Lay Bess in memory of her

husband, J. Flay Bess. Associate Minister's Study was furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Oscar G. Penegar, and the Older Youth Club Room was furnished by Mr. and Mrs. Walter Davis.

A special brochure commemorating the occasion was prepared under the direction of Stewart Atkins, chairman of the Publicity Committee and its members, H. C. Barkley, W. E. Deaton, Pat McSwain, and Caldwell Winecoff. Its first pages were devoted to the regular Order of Worship as in the usual *Bulletin*, with the addition in this issue of the *Litany For The Opening Of The Church Building*.

This brochure carried congratulatory messages from the then Presiding Bishop, Nolan B. Harmon, Dr. Wilson O. Weldon, the Reverend Clyde Murray, and the Presiding District Superintendent, the Reverend C. W. Kirby. Their photographs were also included. Also with congratulatory messages, the brochure contained photographs of Charles D. Gray, chairman of the Official Board; Robert Pinnix, chairman of the Building Committee; and Allen H. Sims, chairman of the Building Finance Committee. The roster of the entire membership, which numbered 1975 on August 15, 1956, was printed in the brochure with a brief history of our church written by J. W. Atkins. Pictures of the church of 1885 and that of the 1900 edifice were also shown.

Mr. Atkins listed the 1956 officials of the church. They were Charles D. Gray, chairman of the Official Board; Pat McSwain, vice chairman; Jack Darwin, secretary; A. G. Myers, chairman of the Board of Trustees; Mrs. A. G. Myers, Jr., president of the Women's Society of Christian Service; J. L. Hopkins, Sunday School superintendent; George Winecoff, president Methodist Youth Fellowship; Basil McGhee, church treasurer; Miss Evelyn Dellinger, church secretary; George Blackburn, director of Christian Education; Philip D. Blackwood, director of music; Mrs. John D. Kersh, organist; Mrs. Ray Corbitt, minister's secretary; and Mrs. Roland Hamner, hostess.

Concluding the last phase of the building program, a committee headed by James T. Comer, then chairman of the Official Board,



Rev. Clyde E. Murray  
Associate pastor, 1954-1967

purchased in 1957 the site at 1200 South Street upon which our present parsonage was erected. The land, together with the building and its furnishings, represents a cost of approximately \$45,000. Dr. Weldon and his family occupied the parsonage in 1958.

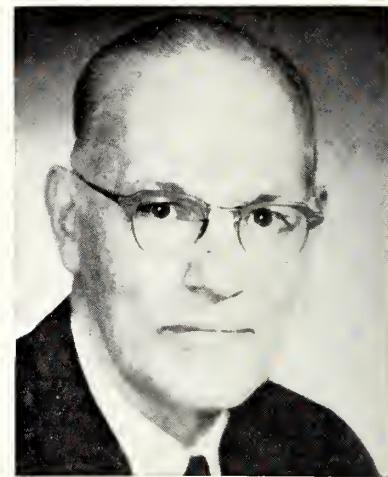
Following six years of outstanding service as our minister, the transfer came early in 1958. Dr. Weldon and his family were moved to a new appointment as pastor of the well-known Myers Park Methodist Church in Charlotte. Our church was fortunate to have a minister of Dr. Weldon's ability in the period in which he served. That the transfer was effected with no interruption of church services or programs is in a large degree a tribute to his organizational capability and his superb leadership.

A signal honor, a deserved recognition, has come to Dr. Weldon in recent years. Because of his many and varied talents he was selected, following pastorates at Myers Park Church and later at West Market Place Church in Greensboro, to be editor of a Christian publication, world-wide in its circulation and importance. It was *The Upper Room*, with its headquarters in Nashville, Tennessee.

First Methodist Church welcomed another outstanding minister as its pastor in 1958. Dr. James G. Huggin was appointed to succeed Dr. Weldon. Coming to our church from his position as our district superintendent, Dr. Huggin, genial and friendly, was no stranger to most



Dr. James Huggin  
1958-1963



Dr. C. C. Herbert  
1963-1968

of the congregation. Endowed with a keen sense of humor and a most persuasive personality, he secured and held fine cooperation from our membership in furthering programs of the church. Among his many achievements while here, the coordination and organization of our rapidly expanding multi-departmental educational program stands out.

Much in demand as a speaker upon subjects secular as well as those involving the spiritual, "Dr. Jim," as he was affectionately known to many of his congregation and to others in the city, added greatly to the material and spiritual growth of the church. Dr. Huggin served 1958-1963.

Succeeding Dr. Huggin as pastor of First Methodist Church, Dr. C. C. Herbert, Jr. was appointed as pastor in 1963. Dr. Herbert came to our church from the Wesley Memorial Methodist Church in High Point and by coincidence Dr. Huggin, on leaving First Methodist here, was appointed to the High Point post.

Under Dr. Herbert's able direction, the educational program of our church continued to expand. The Reverend Kirk McNeill was added to the church staff in 1967, assuming the duties of educational minister, and the staff continued to expand with the appointment of the Reverend Howard Jordan as associate minister in the same year.

Dr. Herbert, in addition to being a Methodist, was definitely a Methodist. Zealous, energetic in

carrying out the duties incident to this office, he was especially active in organization and as an executive. Forceful in his presentations, he served to greatly strengthen the church spiritually and materially.

With respect to Dr. Herbert's special qualifications in administrative work, his record was such as to merit his selection by our Presiding Bishop, Dr. Earl G. Hunt, Jr., to be executive assistant on his staff in Charlotte. At the end of his tenure as pastor here in 1968, Dr. Herbert assumed his new duties there.

Insofar as available records indicate, the Reverend Howard Jordan, our associate pastor, is the first U. S. Army chaplain to serve as a minister in our church. He came to the church as an associate in 1967 from the pastorate of Central Methodist Church in neighboring Kings Mountain.

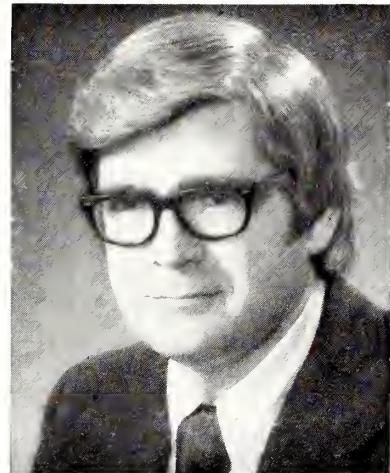
Mr. Jordan's career has been varied and interesting. A native of Greenwood, South Carolina, he graduated from The Citadel in Charleston, South Carolina in 1930 with a B.S. degree in chemistry. Commissioned second lieutenant, Army of the U.S. (Reserves), his first active duty was as a flying cadet at Randolph Field, Texas.

Transferred in rank to the Chaplain's Corps, Army Reserves, he entered Duke University Divinity School in 1932 and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1935. Later that



Rev. Howard R. Jordan

Rev. Howard R. Jordan  
Associate pastor, 1967—  
Rev. W. Kirk McNeill  
Educational minister, 1967—



Rev. Kirk McNeill

year, he was ordained a minister in the South Carolina Conference.

Upon involvement of our country in World War II, Mr. Jordan entered active service as a chaplain and was assigned to duty in the Pacific Theatre. Later he attended special schools in this country, and, at the time of his retirement from active service in 1947, he was serving as chaplain of post barracks in this country.

After joining the Western North Carolina Conference that year, he was the pastor of a number of churches. By reason of age limitations, he eventually retired from the Army Reserves as a full colonel. Mr. Jordan marked 33 years in active and reserve service.

The Reverend W. Kirk McNeill, appointed to our church in 1967 as minister of education, is especially well-qualified for this position. He graduated from Pfeiffer College with a degree of Bachelor of Arts in 1959. Later he earned a Master of Divinity degree at Duke University Divinity School. In 1967, he was consecrated as a minister of education and entered the Western North Carolina Conference.

A native of Pembroke, N. C., he secured his early education there, and later added to his education through participation in the fields of social, recreational, and religious endeavor. His wide range of activities included such positions as acting director of Camp Rockfish, Parkton, N. C., director of "Young Crew" and "Windows" of the Western North Carolina Confer-

ence in 1968 and teacher in Christian Workshop Schools and numerous other related activities. He served also as the youth director and educational assistant at the First Methodist Church of Hamlet and as associate minister of the Hay Street Methodist Church in Fayetteville, N. C. In 1965, Mr. McNeill was listed in Outstanding Young Men of America and was a recipient of other honors in similar listings.

Dr. Charles E. Shannon, who followed Dr. C. C. Herbert as minister of our church, came here in 1968 from Salisbury where he had served as district superintendent. A native of nearby Monroe, Dr. Shannon is a graduate of Duke University with the A.B. and B.D. degrees, and in 1967 was awarded the Doctor of Divinity degree from Pfeiffer College.

When Dr. Shannon came to this pastorate, we had occupied our new church building for twelve years. In this time, the scope of activities within the church had broadened and expanded in a large measure, a growth which increased the responsibilities of our ministers to a marked degree. Fortunately, we had been blessed with wise and capable ministers during this period.

Even so, Dr. Shannon was faced with monumental tasks and responsibilities as our church growth entered a phase that was to be of greater proportions, in reality and on the plotting board. Of immediate concern was the church debt, reduced but still large. With the fine cooperation of the congregation, the entire debt was retired in less than two years. An impressive

service of dedication, described elsewhere in this history, was conducted on December 13, 1970. This would be the first time the church was clear of debt since 1904.

This year of 1970 also marked the observance of our centennial. It had been more than 100 years since the "twenty-five or thirty" members of the Methodist Society built, by the hand labor of these members, a log cabin and named the first church "Shiloh," the direct precursor of our church.

Materially and physically, our First United Methodist Church has, within the past sixteen years, expanded and grown into a body comparable to a large business enterprise. In the brochure commemorating the opening of this church in 1956, J. W. Atkins in his article gave our budget for that year as \$120,000. At the close of 1970, the budget totals \$212,400.

Possessed seemingly of a boundless store of well-directed energy, Dr. Shannon's ministry can best be characterized as one of dedication to the Church and all for which it stands—the preaching of the Gospel of Jesus Christ, and Christian service to mankind. Displaying a marked capability in administrating the affairs of the church, he has been equally zealous as a pastor in visitation, in bringing comfort to the distressed and in furthering spiritual growth in our church.

In reviewing the sketches of the pastors serving our church during the hundred years of its existence, the conclusive thought emerges that the casual reader might possibly gain the impression that the fine representatives of the cloth so sketched were bachelors all. There does not appear a single reference to that personage who also served—the pastor's wife. With one or two possible exceptions, the pastors serving here over the years were married. The good deeds and the exceptional personalities of these home-makers of the parsonage are remembered and appreciated even down through the years by many of our congregation today. In church work, as teachers and leaders of their groups, they served well and have been invaluable to the growth of our church.

—By Dameron H. Williams



Dr. Charles E. Shannon  
Pastor, 1968—

## ITEMS FROM OLD CHURCH RECORDS

\* \* \* \*

In viewing the minutes of the Board of Stewards for September 13, 1949, we have this item: "Yates Smith brought before the Board a special report regarding the conditions of the Church School. He stated that every department was crowded for space, and pointed out the danger of the Primary Department children being placed in the balcony when they could easily fall over the low railings to the pews several feet below." The Primary Department was advised to move to Gunter Memorial building.

\* \* \* \*

From a letter to J. H. Separk, chairman, House and Grounds Committee, dated December 21, 1926: "Regarding a request from the choir that there be heat in the church on choir practice nights to enable them to practice with the organ, we suggest to your committee that we add to this a fire in the stove in the room formerly used as Pastor's study every Sunday morning and evening about thirty minutes before the hour of the regular services. It would also be nice to provide a pitcher of water and drinking cups in this room for the use of the choir."

The committee making the recommendation was the Music Committee, consisting of R. N. Aycock, chairman, F. D. Barkley, J. W. Culp, W. N. Davis, and W. M. Nolen.



Dr. Charles D. White  
Superintendent of Gastonia District since 1967.

First Church and the Gastonia District are fortunate to have Dr. Charles D. White as Superintendent since 1967. A native of High Point, Dr. White has served such congregations as First, Asheboro, and Trinity, Kannapolis, but is better known as one of the most efficient secretaries this Annual Conference has ever had. Beginning in 1952, he served through the conference of 1967. In addition to this outstanding service, he has been a delegate to the General Conferences of 1956, 1960, 1964 and 1968, and was elected General Secretary at the 1968 session of General Conference in Dallas, Texas. He and Mrs. White and other members of the family are very active in our program.



This artistic photo, taken from South Oakland Street, shows a portion of the sanctuary and an end view of the chapel.

## CHAIRMEN OF THE BOARD – 1957 - 1970



James T. Comer  
1957-1959



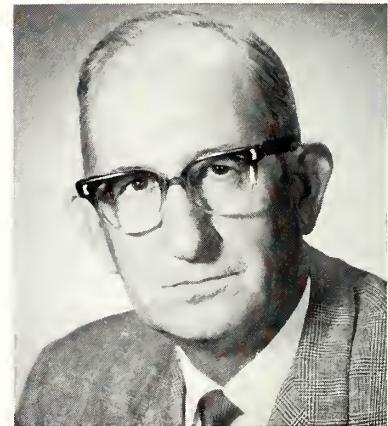
R. P. Caldwell  
1959-1961



Richard V. McPhail  
1961-1962



J. L. Gray, Jr.  
1963-1964



J. Mack Holland  
1964-1966



Pat McSwain  
1966-1968



Grady B. Stott  
1968-1970



Robert L. Allen  
1970--

## INTERIOR VIEWS

The gracefully designed lectern in the sanctuary (left photo) has a lamp carved on the front symbolically expressing "The Word of God."

The chapel (pictured below) is in some respects similar to the nave but smaller. A brass cross, two brass candlesticks and a large open Bible complete the altar appointments.

Behind the altar on the two panels are six symbols describing Old and New Testament events. At the front near the altar is the baptismal font carved with scalloped shells, symbol of holy baptism. From the ceiling above the altar hangs an eternal light.

The quiet sacred atmosphere of this chapel with its appropriate and significant symbols makes it truly a place designed for prayerful worship.

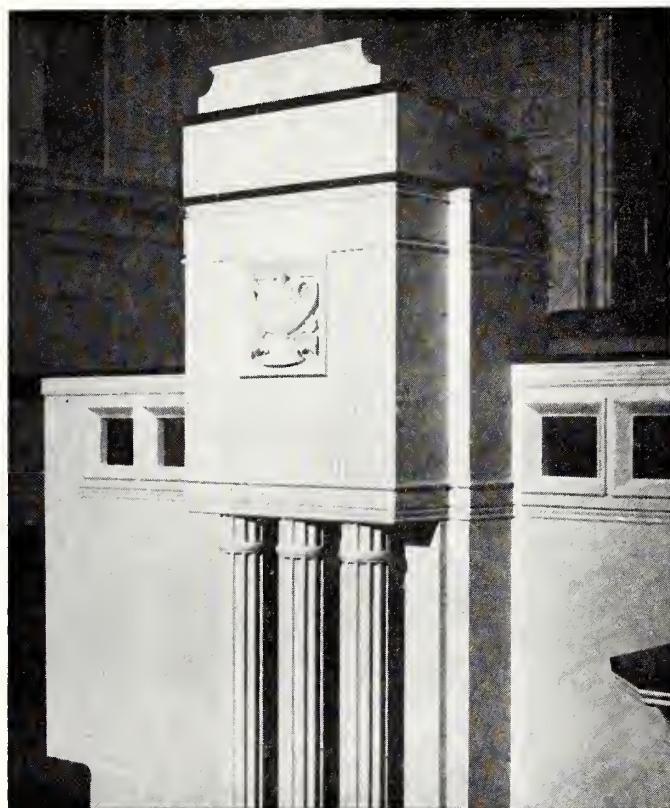




Photo by Johnny Kanipe

# A Description of the Church Symbols Used in the Church Chancel

The center of worship is the altar—not as an object in itself but because of the great symbolic meaning behind it. The altar marks a place set apart and dedicated to the worship of God. It symbolizes the Presence of God, and is a perpetual reminder of His love as revealed by our Lord's sacrifice on Calvary.

Carved on our altar are five crosses—one on each corner and one in the center. These five crosses are symbolical of the five wounds of Christ.

In the center just above the altar is a small Fleur de Lis. This is a symbol of the Holy Trinity—the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

The large cross is above the altar and is the best-known symbol of our Christian faith. The carving above the cross is known as the Agnus Dei—"The Lamb of God." This is one of the most beautiful of all ancient symbols of our Lord. The lamb is holding a banner, often called the Easter or Resurrection Banner, symbolizing Christ's victory over death. The head is surrounded with a three-rayed nimbus, significant of divinity.

The twelve carved symbols on the side panels are the shields of the twelve Apostles, with the obvious exception of Judas.

At the top left is the shield of Peter with two crossed keys. They recall Peter's confession and our Lord's statement regarding the Office of the Keys.

The three scallop shells found on the second shield signify the long pilgrimages and missionary journeys of James the Greater.

Phillip is symbolized by a cross and a staff. These refer to his successful missionary journeys among the barbarians in upper Asia. His shield is third on the left.

The fourth is the shield of Thomas. Here we see a carpenter's square which refers to his trade as a builder. It is said that he built a church in India with his own hands.

Next appears the shield of Matthew, as an apostle, where is seen three neatly tied purses which refer to his early occupation as a tax collector.

The shield of Simon shows a fish lying on a book, the fish signifying that he was a "fisher of men," and the book signifying the Gospel.

Describing the carvings in the right hand panel starting with the upper symbol, we have the shield of John. On his shield is a chalice or cup from which a serpent is emerging. Tradition says that the priest of Diana gave him poisoned wine to drink, but he made the sign of the Cross over the chalice and the poison escaped in the form of a snake. More probable basis of the cup as a symbol of John is the reference of Jesus that John and James should drink His cup.

The next shield is symbolic of Andrew. In the background is a cross in the shape of the letter X. This is known as St. Andrew's Cross. He is said to have been bound to a cross of this shape. Two fish crossed to form the same design are in the foreground.

The shield of Bartholomew is next. Here we see three flaying knives. Bartholomew is supposed to have won King Polymus of Armenia to Christianity. But a brother of the king was so angry that he had Bartholomew flayed, crucified and even beheaded.

The crossed saws of the fourth shield on the right symbolize James the Less. It is claimed that at the age of ninety-six he was thrown from the Temple of the Pharisees and his mangled, dead body was sawn asunder. He was called James the Less because of his small stature.

The beautiful sailing ship on the next shield represents Jude of Thaddaeus. There is a cross on one of the sails and these together represent his missionary journeys.

Since there is little reason to honor the twelfth apostle, Judas, his symbols are rarely used. A blank shield is sometimes used or a shield representing Matthias, who was chosen to take the place of Judas.

The twelfth shield in our sanctuary, however, represents the great Paul. His symbol is an open Bible with a sword behind it. These symbolize the Word of God as the "Sword of the Spirit." The Bible bears the inscription, "Spiritus Gladius"—the sword of the Spirit.

But the origin of these symbols is very ancient, and there are many variations. It might be interesting to review the original qualification of an apostle as stated by Peter (Acts 1:21-22). This was that he should have been personally acquainted with our Lord's ministry, from his baptism by John to his ascension.

By Christine Sloan

# THE EDUCATIONAL MINISTRY

"Our educational ministry is a ministry with persons. It is not a program for anyone. It is a ministry, a mutuality, a sharing-caring, a recognition and respect of the worth and dignity of each individual," explains the Reverend Kirk McNeill, who handles this important phase of our church activities. "We have, in the past, put on programs for people. We have urged, encouraged, pleaded, and sometimes forced them to attend rallies and lectures. We have allowed them to be spectators at religious events. But, we have discovered that we really do not learn, change, turn around, convert by being a spectator. Rather, we learn in direct proportion to our participation. We get out exactly in proportion to what we put in."

There are 286 volunteer leaders in our 1970 Educational Ministry. The following is the directory of the Educational Ministry for 1970:

## COMMISSION ON EDUCATION

Al Bohanan (chairman), Miss Bonnie Burrell (educational secretary), Mrs. Pat McSwain (children's ministry co-ordinator), Mrs. Kenneth White (younger children's divisional superintendent), Mrs. Craig Hovis (elementary divisional superintendent), John Scuter (youth ministry co-ordinator), Lonnie Baker (youth chairman), Ray Haekney (adult ministry co-ordinator), Charles Elliott (adult ministries), Mrs. David Stewart (youth adult ministries), Steve Moore (scouting), Miss Patricia Barton (educational assistant), Kirk McNeill (minister of education).

The General Church School officers for 1970 are: James C. Sparks (secretary), J. B. Smith (assistant secretary), Harvey Holmes (treasurer), and Bill Holmes (assistant treasurer).

The basic lay leadership rests upon the Chairman of Education, Robert L. Allen, and our Commission on Education, in cooperation with the Council of Ministries. The Reverend Kirk McNeill, minister of education, and Miss Pat Barton, educational assistant, are the staff members who give guidance.

Our varied program includes 40 classes of all ages on Sunday morning and eight Sunday evening fellowship groups. Also, there are seven week-day nursery and kindergarten groups under the guidance of fourteen teachers and staff.

## THE DRAMA GROUP

There is a drama group for children, youth and adults. Its goals are:

1. To present God's concern for man through drama.
2. To afford the participants a unique experience in fellowship through participation, with opportunity to support and be supported by one another, to work as a team to meet some needs of the participating group (cast and crew) and the observing group (audience).
3. To stimulate the use and acceptance of drama in the church.
4. To introduce new forms of worship and add to present forms.

Each summer there are Vacation Church School classes for younger children and summer camps for older children and youth. Three months each year our church leads Church School extension classes at the N. C. Orthopaedic Hospital. Three youth ministry councils plan and carry out our work with 225 young people.

First United Methodist Church is an active group of persons dedicated to leadership of God's Spirit. This is a fact in 1970 and is so because of a heritage of commitment by many outstanding leaders in the past as well as the present.

## EDUCATIONAL CHAIRMEN

The first Educational Chairman to serve was Dr. Charles H. Pugh who served in 1950. He was followed by Ennis Atkins (1951), Howard Goodnight (1952-1954), Ennis Atkins (1955-1956), Robert Shi, Jr. (1957), Dr. Woodrow Sugg (1958-1960), Robert Shi, Jr. (1961-1964), Robert Hazel (1965-1966), and Robert Allen (1967-1970).

## CHURCH SCHOOL SUPERINTENDENTS

Our records listing Sunday school superintendents go back as far as 1913, with Joseph H. Separk listed as superintendent from 1913 through 1922. He was followed by John R. Rankin (1923-1924), Charles Gunter (1925-1930), L. B. Altman (1931), Dr. Charles H. Pugh (1932-1934), C. E. Hamilton, Jr. (1935-1936), Dr. Charles H. Pugh (1937-1950), Max Parrish (1951-1955), James Hopkins (1956-1957), Robert Shi, Jr. (1958-1959), Robert L. Allen (1960-1961), Dr. Robert Chambers (1962-1964), and Ralph Jonas (1965-1970).

## EDUCATIONAL DIRECTORS

Mrs. Hoyt Cunningham served as a combination director of religious education and church secretary from 1929 through 1934. At that time, Earl Edwards directed religious education and was listed as "Junior

## EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND PROGRAMS



Church drama group at work reading parts for the play "Mr. Scrooge" which was presented in December, 1970.

Pastor" and served through 1941. Billy Beam was the first full-time director of education in 1942 and was followed by: Marion Craig (1943-1948), Louise Aycock (1949-1951), Carolyn Beam (1952-1954), Jane Kirk (1955), George Blackburn (1956-1959), Jonell Robinson (1961-1964), the Rev. Jerry Faulkner (1965-1966), the Rev. Kirk McNeill (1967- ).

### SENIOR CHURCH SCHOOL CLASSES

The Senior Church School classes, several of which have been in operation for many years, have done outstanding work in the church. The following are the classes and their presidents: Builders Class, Wilson Setzer, president; Choir Class, James Smith; Forum Class, R. V. McPhail; Joy Class, Dan Loftis; Claude Moser Class, Mrs. James Arthur; Clyde Murray Class, Ed Hovis; Philathea Class, Mrs. E. T. Etheridge and Mrs. Yates Smith; Separk Bible Class, Loyd Rose, Sr.; Stanford Class, Mrs. J. O. Fayssoux; Wilson Weldon Class, Jerry T. Hayes; Young Adult Class, J. Lander Gray III.

### CHURCH SCHOOL ITEMS FROM THE PAST

In searching through old church school records, several items have been uncovered that should be of much interest to our readers, both the younger and older members.

"The church school has advanced with the growth of our church," wrote the Reverend Claude Moser, somewhere around 1946. "Under the capable leadership of Dr. C. H. Pugh, superintendent, and a corps of 98 officers and teachers, the school is well-organized and functions smoothly and we now have over 900 members. Cooperating with the church school is the church Board of Education, consisting of the following: Dr. C. H. Pugh, chairman; J. R. Delling, S.S. treasurer; Mrs. Kenneth Todd, W.S.C.S.; J. H. Separk, Board of Stewards; Miss Minnie Lee Peeden, superintendent of children's division; Frank Tucker, superintendent youth division; Yates D. Smith, superintendent adult division; Boyd Eudy, president young people; Richard Penegar, president seniors; C. E. Hamilton, Ennis Atkins, E. S. Harris, Horace Murphy, Mrs. Carrie M. Cork, Miss Alma Goode, on the church Board of Christian Education.

\* \* \* \*

On October 26, 1934, in a meeting of the Board of Stewards, according to old records, Mrs. F. Hoyt Cunningham resigned as church secretary and director of religious education, and was thanked for faithful and valuable service for the past five years.

The Board also went on record as favoring continuing the pastor's salary at \$4,000 for the year.

\* \* \* \*

From the minutes of the Official Board, February 6, 1957: "Mrs. Pat McSwain made a request for the Christian Day School, suggesting that a kindergarten for five-year-olds be started in September with Mrs. Mason in charge. Mrs. A. G. Myers, Jr., made a report on the operation of the kitchen and dining room to date. She advised that it had been very successful and attendance had been good. R. H. Pinnix made a final report for the Building Committee, advising that they had authorized the treasurer to pay out a total of \$781,005.02 which covered all indebtedness except about \$400 on which statements had not been received.

\* \* \* \*

Here are names of various committee members from old records of 1927-28: Publicity Committee: J. M. Holland, Dr. C. H. Pugh, J. W. Atkins, A. R. Rankin, A. E. Woltz; Young People's Work: J. L. Beal, J. H. Separk, J. W. Atkins, John R. Rankin, Wade S. Buice; Entertainment Committee: Fred

D. Barkley, M. F. Kirby, A. G. Myers, O. F. Mason, C. J. Huss. (Their duties, incidentally, "to meet and provide for the entertainment of visitors, furnish necessary entertainment for all special occasions, and otherwise keep alive the social side of the church life.") Christian Literature Committee: F. P. Rockett, J. K. Dixon, W. L. C. Killian, R. B. Babington, George W. Wilson. Christian Education: J. W. Atkins, T. R. Cash, J. H. Separk, S. C. Hendricks, V. E. Long. Missions: J. L. Gray, R. B. Babington, A. A. McLean, Dr. C. H. Pugh, J. K. Dixon.

\* \* \* \*

From the minutes of the Board of Trustees, February 2, 1936: "Dr. Mac G. Anders reports that the McAdenville Methodist Church has applied for certain fixtures consisting of pipes, railings, etc., which were left by our church when a certain swimming pool, built for our Young Peoples' building, was converted into class rooms. The Board recommended to the Board of Stewards that the material requested be given to the McAdenville church."

The trustees who signed the report were: A. J. Rankin, George W. Smith and Dr. Mac G. Anders.



The above picture was made in August, 1958 and shows the trailer camping outfit owned by the church with several young people enjoying one of many camping trips made by young people of the church. George Blackburn, then church director of Christian education, and who organized the program, led several groups of boys and girls on trips over several states in the South.

# THROUGH THE WEEK SCHOOL



One of the most dedicated groups in the church's educational program are the members of the faculty of the "Through the Week School" who direct nursery and kindergarten children.

The following are the groups and their leaders:

Nursery groups: Mrs. Robert Rawlings, Mrs. Seth White, Jr.; Retarded group: Mrs. Cecil Johnson; Younger Kindergarten (A): Mrs. William Harris, Mrs. Steve Jones; Younger Kindergarten (B): Mrs. J. R. Bradshaw, Mrs. Felix Dover; Older Kindergarten (A): Mrs. W. N. Davis, Mrs. Hugh Giles; Older Kindergarten (B): Mrs. Warren Roberts, Mrs. Lester Campbell.



In the photo above are shown members of the faculty of the Through the Week School in 1970. Front row (l. to r.): Mrs. William Harris, Mrs. Seth White, Jr., Mrs. Steve Jones, Mrs. Cecil Johnson, and Mrs. Hugh Giles. Top row: Mrs. Lester Campbell, Mrs. Robert Rawlings, Mrs. Warren Roberts, Mrs. J. R. Bradshaw, Mrs. William N. Davis, Jr., and Mrs. Felix Dover. (Photo—Ray Hackney)

# WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE



## 1970 OFFICERS AND EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Front row (l. to r.): Miss Lucile Tatum, Mrs. Robert Haygood, Jr., Mrs. Don McGinnis, Mrs. W. J. Cleveland, Mrs. John O. Durham, and Mrs. John Fayssoux. Second row: Mrs. Guy Thomas, Mrs. William Powell, Mrs. Hoyt Cunningham, Mrs. David C. Colvin, Mrs. Tucker Childers, Mrs. W. K. Smith, Mrs. A. G. Myers, Jr., and Mrs. William E. Robinson.

Third row: Mrs. C. W. Gunter, Mrs. Harvey Holmes, Mrs. John G. Edwards, Mrs. John Hoyle, Jr., and Mrs. Ernest Boys. Top row: Mrs. Dick McPhail, Mrs. A. F. Harrelson, Mrs. Carl Rustin, Mrs. F. J. Kandler, Mrs. Nell Lavender, Mrs. B. A. Fair, Mrs. Leslie Morris, and Mrs. Walter Hendricks. (Photo—Hackney)

When you stand at a given time in history and take a look back over a span of years to determine just when an organization had its beginning, the mind drifts into the beauty of the old, old words, "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God." The power and truth of this realization undergirds all delving into the past in an effort to see the hand of God at work in human hearts to create a design that might help His people experience a deeper fellowship in His love.

Less than a century after the gathering of the first group of Methodist women to organize a Woman's Missionary Society in Boston, Mass., in October, 1800, the women of Main Street

Methodist Church in Gastonia came together for a similar purpose; joining in the movement spreading through all Methodism as women began to do their part "in ushering in a century marked by the dawning concern for women's rights and the growth of the missionary enterprise"—two closely related movements.

As nearly as can be determined, this local organization took place about 1898 when Main Street Methodist Church was a small brick structure, located at the corner of Main Avenue and Oakland Street. Mrs. W. M. Bagby, wife of the minister of the church at that time, was the leading spirit in organizing this first Missionary Society, and she became its first presi-

dent. Closely associated with her was Mrs. B. T. Morris, who succeeded her as president and served until 1913, a period of 15 years. Mrs. Morris remained active in the work until her health failed in 1945.

Records of the women's work over the years have only occasionally been preserved; apparently there are no records for quite a number of years. According to those of the Shelby District, of which Main Street was a part at that time, we read the names of such active women as Mrs. B. T. Morris, Mrs. J. H. Separk, Mrs. James W. Atkins, Mrs. R. J. Sifford, and Mrs. W. M. Morris, all instrumental in carrying on the work of the Missionary Society on the district and local levels. These records also show that both Home and Foreign Missionary Societies were functioning at that time in Main Street Church.

A Ladies' Aid Society had been organized as early as 1884, but the women in this group were not sympathetic with the missionary movement and felt it was their responsibility to "look after the bachelor preachers and the parsonage." A Woman's Home Society had been organized in the District in 1907, but records of the leaders in this movement are not available.

The Woman's Foreign Missionary Society and the Woman's Home Missionary Society merged in 1912 into one organization to be known as the Woman's Missionary Society of the Western North Carolina Conference. This historic meeting took place at Main Street Church in the then new building erected in 1900. A memorable occasion in the annals of the Society, it had many delightful and interesting features. In 1928 Main Street Church was again host to the Conference meeting, and the 16th anniversary of union of the two societies was observed.

When the Educational Building (the present Youth Building) was erected in 1920, it included kitchen and dining room facilities; the women of the Society assumed added responsibilities in sponsoring bazaars and serving their own groups within the church, as well as many

outside organizations. Considerable funds were raised toward payment for a new parsonage which had been erected about this time, and in 1932, a magnificent Wurlitzer organ was purchased and presented to the church by the women.

In this period a Department of Local Work was organized, an outgrowth of the former Ladies' Aid Society. Active in promoting this work were Mrs. J. H. Separk, Mrs. J. M. Sloan, Mrs. S. B. Dolley, Mrs. W. C. Davis, and Mrs. W. G. Hamner. The Auxiliary-Circle plan was adopted in 1934, and for the next six years, there was a large gain in membership and increased interest in Mission Study. Leaders of this phase of work were Mrs. J. H. Separk, Mrs. W. C. Davis, Mrs. Kenneth Todd, Mrs. Maude Owen Moore, and Mrs. W. G. Hamner.

### W.S.C.S. Organized

Many significant and important changes feature the years of our history. Outstanding among these occurred in 1940 when unification of the three branches of The Methodist Church was adopted by the General Conference. This brought the women's organizations together in one group, and it became the Woman's Society of Christian Service. A group of interested women met in our church on September 4, 1940 for an organizational meeting. When completed, the group became one of the sixty-three charter societies of the Gastonia District.

Elected as officers in this society were: President, Mrs. W. G. Hamner; 1st Vice President, Mrs. Gordon Johnstone; 2nd Vice President, Mrs. J. W. Atkins; Recording Secretary, Mrs. J. O. Fayssoux; Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. George Elmore; Connectional Treasurer, Mrs. J. C. Roberts; Local Treasurer, Mrs. J. Flay Bess; Superintendent Christian Social Relations, Mrs. Floyd Todd; Superintendent Children's Work, Mrs. R. Lee Spencer; Superintendent Babies, Mrs. C. H. Pugh; Superintendent Publicity, Mrs. B. T. Morris; Superintendent Supplies, Mrs. Mac G. Anders; Superintendent Missions and Bible Study, Mrs. C. E. Rozzelle; Agent for

World Outlook, Mrs. E. D. Atkins; Pianist, Mrs. F. P. Rockett.

War came to our country in 1941 and with it the anxieties, the fears and the sacrifices that wars bring. The women of Main Street Church carried their share during these years, and many hours were given in service to, and through, the numerous organizations created to meet the critical needs of the times. During this important period and for many succeeding years, strong leadership in kitchen and dining room management was given freely by Mrs. Charles H. Pugh.

Our 15th anniversary of union was observed in 1955 and our membership could look back with great pride upon the work they had done. It has gone forward, creating interest, awakening enthusiasm, and augmenting our growth and development.

The present building was occupied in September 1956 and our organization became The Woman's Society of Christian Service of The First Methodist Church, the church name being changed from "Main Street" as of this date. With an enlarged church membership and increased enrollment in the Society, the responsibilities were again increased. A modern kitchen and dining room facilities now provided, the phase of local church activities expanded. Mrs. Roland Hamner was secured as church hostess, and the serving by the women of weekly family night dinners, as well as Sunday evening snack suppers, became a regular part of the church program.

The monthly Woman's Society general meeting soon became a luncheon, also served by the women, and occasionally outside dinners have been served as an accommodation to the community. A fine spirit of fellowship that has continued through the years developed due to these unselfish and cooperative efforts.

Mrs. Hamner was succeeded as hostess in 1959 by Mrs. J. B. Moseley and in 1963 Mrs. Harry Long, present hostess, assumed this position. Mrs. Ezell Boykin has been the church

cook since the enlarged serving program began in 1956.

The 25th anniversary of union was appropriately observed in 1965 and records show marked increase in all lines of endeavor. Our women were justly proud of the challenges they had successfully met over that period of years.

Original interest of the Woman's Society was missions, and through the years a large portion of funds has been given to help the missionary cause in many countries. Financial aid has also gone to many places and many persons in our own country in areas where there has been need for help.

A scholarship fund was established by the Society in 1940 in memory of Mrs. J. H. Separk, whose work in the missionary cause had an early beginning and extended over many years. Numerous young people have received educational assistance through this fund. The Vinnie Stewart Atkins Loan Fund was established in 1952 by James W. Atkins in memory of his wife, also a pioneer leader of women's work in the church. Later the Atkins family made the Loan Fund into a Scholarship Fund, which now exists.

For many years the elements for Communion Services have been the responsibility of the women. The making of unleavened bread for these services was first undertaken by Mrs. R. H. Jacobs, an activity continued in later years by her daughter-in-law, Mrs. Joe Jacobs, Sr. In 1938, Mrs. Guy Killian assumed this responsibility, and in 1969, Mrs. Guy Thomas succeeded her.

### The Altar Committee

One of the most important duties of the church is performed weekly by the Altar Committee, which was begun in 1956 when the present building was nearing completion. At that time, the minister appointed a committee to select and order the Altar Appointments for both the Sanctuary and the Chapel. Serving on this committee were Mrs. W. G. Hamner, Mrs. Albert Myers, Jr., Mrs. Harold Sumner, and Mrs.



The four women whose pictures are shown above were especially active in obtaining and preparing information relative to the activities of the various women's organizations of the church for this history.

Seated (l. to r.): Mrs. Charles W. Gunter and Mrs. W. G. Hamner. Standing: Mrs. Pat McSwain and Mrs. Nell Lavender.

Ben B. Culp. Agreeing that silver was most appropriate for the Sanctuary, eight collection plates, two vases and six large candlesticks were purchased. The total cost of \$1,106.11 was paid by the Woman's Society of Christian Service.

The brass appointments selected by the committee for the Chapel were given in memory of Ann Wagner Maddox by members of the Society and close friends. Mrs. Maddox was serving as president of the Society at the time of her death in 1954. The appointments included: The Cross, thirty inches high; two candlesticks, two vases, three collection plates, one missal stand, four communion trays with two bases and two tops, two bread trays together with seventy-five Methodist Hymnals. Total cost was \$580.72.

To ensure the proper use and care of all these appointments, an Altar Committee was ap-

pointed. Mrs. Ben B. Culp was chairman, and serving with her were Mrs. Albert Myers, Jr., Mrs. Joc Jacobs, Sr., Mrs. C. C. Smith, and Mrs. L. B. Hollowell, Sr. Since that time many other women have served on this committee, the duties of which are numerous and varied.

The silver communion set from the Main Street Church is still in use, but it is not known just when nor by whom this set was presented. A new set of Fair Linen was given to the church by Mr. and Mrs. Joe S. Jacobs, Sr., in memory of Mr. Jacob's mother, Mrs. R. H. Jacobs. This set is handmade in its entirety, and handsomely and appropriately embroidered.

Our Women's Society bears the expense of placing flowers in the Sanctuary for each service except when arrangements are made for memorial flowers. The women of the church spend many hours behind the scenes in order that we may all worship in an atmosphere which truly says, "How lovely is Thy dwelling place, O Lord of hosts." Psalms 84:1.

## Life Memberships

A history of the organization would not be complete without a tribute to those pioneer leaders whose labors of love can never be forgotten.

During our long history, there have been many consecrated women, in addition to those pictured, who have made worthwhile contributions. The following have been recognized and honored with Life Memberships: 1931, Mrs. B. T. Morris; 1939, Mrs. J. K. Dixon; 1940, Mrs. Mac G. Anders, Mrs. J. M. Sloan; 1942, Mrs. Guy C. Killian, Mrs. J. W. Atkins, Mrs. T. E. Summerrow; 1945, Mrs. W. G. Hamner, Mrs. J. Flay Bess, Mrs. E. D. Atkins; 1946, Mrs. Claude Moser, Mrs. P. B. Magruder, Mrs. C. H. Pugh; 1947, Mrs. A. J. Owen, Mrs. J. B. Atkinson, Mrs. J. R. Rankin.

1949, Mrs. W. G. Hardin, Sr., Mrs. J. O. Fayssoux, Mrs. J. H. Walters, Mrs. F. C. Todd, Mrs. E. H. Blackard; 1950, Mrs. W. G. Boyd, Mrs. C. W. Gunter, Mrs. L. S. Rankin, Sr., Mrs. R. Pinkney Rankin, Mrs. Maude O.

Moore, Mrs. W. O. Tatum; 1951, Mrs. E. L. Rice, Mrs. J. M. Coffey, Miss Ethel Smith, Mrs. W. A. Stanbury; 1952, Mrs. J. C. Dellinger, Mrs. W. C. Davis, Mrs. J. C. Roberts, Mrs. B. T. Morris (Honorary); 1953, Mrs. Albert Rankin, Sr., Mrs. George Jenkins, Sr., Mrs. A. A. Alexander; 1954, Mrs. H. G. Harris, Mrs. George W. Smith.

1955, Mrs. Charles W. Jenkins, Mrs. W. B. Morris; 1956, Mrs. Plato Durham, Mrs. Joe Jacobs, Sr.; 1957, Mrs. Ben B. Culp, Mrs. B. A. Fair, Mrs. C. D. Gray, Jr.; 1958, Mrs. Wilson O. Weldon, Mrs. Albert G. Myers, Jr., Miss Christine Sloan; 1959, Mrs. Cary C. Boshamer, Mrs. C. W. Boshamer, Miss Evelyn Dellinger; 1960, Mrs. Carl Rustin, Mrs. Carl Jackson, Mrs. Roland Hamner, Mrs. Hugh Legare, Mrs. Pat McSwain; 1961, Mrs. Lyle Edwards, Mrs. Nell Lavender, Mrs. A. G. Myers, Sr., Mrs. Kenneth Todd, Mrs. G. D. Webb; 1962, Mrs. W. J. Cleveland, Mrs. R. V. McPhail, Mrs. J. M. Sloan, Jr., Mrs. B. O. McGhee, Mrs. Jack Siler, Mrs. Guy Killian (Honorary).

1963, Mrs. Fred Byrd, Jr., Mrs. Henry Rankin, Jr., Mrs. Joe Jacobs, Jr., Mrs. G. F. Penninger, Mrs. J. B. Mosely; 1964, Mrs. Hoyt Cunningham, Sr., Mrs. Douglas French, Mrs. Dan Gunter, Mrs. G. N. Henson, Mrs. Harvey Holmes; 1965, Mrs. C. W. Gunter (Honorary), Mrs. J. D. Hicks, Mrs. Walter Hendricks, Mrs. V. E. Long, Mrs. John L. Reep; 1966, Mrs. E. G. Beeker, Mrs. H. K. Herrin, Mrs. W. D. Killian, Mrs. Clyde Murray, Mrs. W. E. Robinson.

1967, Mrs. John O. Durham, Mrs. Stewart Atkins, Miss Lucile Tatum, Mrs. C. C. Herbert, Jr., Mrs. Harry Long; 1968, Mrs. R. P. Caldwell, Mrs. F. J. Kandler, Mrs. L. M. Morris, Mrs. E. D. Atkins (Honorary), Mrs. J. O. Fayssoux (Honorary); 1970, Mrs. Dan Moser, Mrs. Theodore Kafitz, Mrs. Earl Sisk, Mrs. C. C. Hudson, Mrs. A. F. Harrelson.

Since its beginning in 1896, there have been twenty-four women who have served as president, some for many years:

1896-1898—Mrs. W. M. Bagby; 1898-1913—Mrs. B. T. Morris; 1913-1914—Mrs. James W. Atkins; 1914-1915—Mrs. B. T. Morris; 1916-1920—Mrs. T. E. Summerow; 1920-1925—Mrs. J. H. Separk; 1925-1927—Mrs. Nina Rhyne Long; 1927-1928—Mrs. Mac G. Anders; 1928-1929—Mrs. R. Coke Gray; 1929-1932—Mrs. T. E. Summerow; 1932-1934—Mrs. Guy Killian; 1934-1936—Mrs. John R. Rankin.

1936-1937—Mrs. Mac G. Anders; 1937-1938—Mrs. E. D. Atkins; 1938-1940—Mrs. James W. Atkins; 1940-1942—Mrs. W. G. Hamner; 1942-1944—Mrs. James W. Atkins; 1944-1945—Mrs. R. Pinkney Rankin; 1945-1947—Mrs. Kenneth Todd; 1947-1950—Mrs. W. G. Boyd; 1950-1952—Mrs. W. G. Hamner; 1952-1954—Mrs. Ann Wagner Maddox; 1954-1956—Mrs. C. W. Gunter.

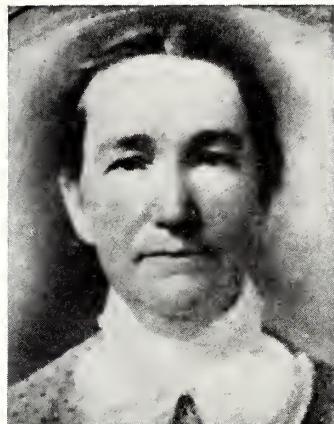
1956-1958—Mrs. Albert G. Myers, Jr.; 1958-1960—Mrs. Carl Rustin; 1960-1962—Mrs. Lyle Edwards; 1962-1964—Mrs. Pat McSwain; 1964-1966—Mrs. Dan Gunter, Jr.; 1966-1968—Mrs. Hermon Herrin; 1968-1969—Mrs. Albert G. Myers, Jr.; 1969-1971—Mrs. John P. Fayssoux.

When the Methodist Church united with the Evangelical United Brethren Church in 1968, the local society became The Women's Society of Christian Service of the First United Methodist Church. Out of this union have come many worthwhile blessings and experiences, and now in 1970, the women of this church are proud to be one of the most valued assets in Methodism.

Dr. Leslie Weatherhead reminds us that "The castles of tomorrow's desires are built each day with the stones of yesterday's experiences." So we look back in appreciation and thankfulness for the building stones of the yesterday's experiences which help make our paths more easily discernible—building stones laid by many, many of you—and others not present today.

By Mrs. Charles W. Gunter

## HONORED FOR DISTINGUISHED SERVICE



Mrs. W. M. Bagby



Mrs. B. T. Morris



Mrs. J. H. Separk

Six members of the Women's Missionary Society of our church are here recognized for rendering distinguished service to the Society through the years.

Mrs. W. M. Bagby organized the Women's Missionary Society in 1896 and was its first president.

Mrs. B. T. Morris served fifteen years as its president and later held every local office except treasurer and was also active in the District.

Mrs. James W. Atkins was elected president three times, serving five years in all and held many other local offices as well as in the District. She was also a very capable Mission Study leader.

Mrs. T. E. Summerow, Sr. was president for seven years and held a number of other local offices.

Mrs. J. H. Separk served five consecutive years as president and also was active in District work as early as 1904. She held many local offices and was very active in missions.

Mrs. Blanche Bess Van Sleen served thirty-two consecutive years as treasurer and has been a very active member of the organization.



Mrs. T. E. Summerow, Sr.



Mrs. James W. Atkins



Mrs. H. M. Van Sleen

# HISTORY OF THE WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD NO. 1



Pictured above are officers of Guild No. 1 serving in 1970. Front row (l. to r.): Mrs. Kyle Davis, Mrs. Fate Adams, and Mrs. T. R. Carson. Top row: Mrs. Ernest Campbell and Mrs. William F. Eaker. Mrs. Leslie Morris, co-ordinator, was absent when picture was made.

## Officers of Guild No. 1 who Serve until December, 1971

President.....	Mrs. T. R. Carson
First Vice President.....	Mrs. Ernest Campbell
Second Vice President.....	Mrs. William F. Eaker
Secretary.....	Mrs. Fate Adams
Treasurer.....	Mrs. Kyle Davis
Co-ordinator.....	Mrs. Leslie Morris

The Wesleyan Service Guild is an outgrowth of the Business Woman's Circle which was organized in our church March 27, 1924. According to the minutes of the first meeting of this circle, a dinner was held in the Banquet Hall of the Sunday School

building at which time Mrs. Robert O. Craig was named first chairman. The minister, Dr. F. J. Prettyman, gave the program. Officers served for six months and the average attendance was 27 for the first few months. The circle did much to help people in financial need. They supported two girls at Crossnore School, aided a woman who needed an eye operation, and loaned a cow to a woman who was the sole support of seven children. By 1930, the membership of the circle had climbed to 50.

The name of the Business Woman's Circle was changed in 1939 to the Wesleyan Service Guild. Now, in 1970, there are three guilds and Guild No. 1 has 45 members. For several years the guild contributed to the salary of the Bible teacher in Ashley High School. When our new church was being planned, the guild set aside \$25.00 each month to help with the expenses and a table in the vestibule of the church was given as a memorial for one of our beloved members, Miss Vergie Barkley.

Our members serve the church and community in various capacities. In serving the church, members sing in the choir, teach Sunday School classes at the church and also at the N. C. Orthopaedic Hospital. They serve at family night suppers, are on visitation committees and contribute in many other ways.

Our community service includes assistance at bloodmobile donor stations, Salvation Army contributions and work with the Cancer Society.

When the name of our church was changed to First United Methodist Church in 1968, the guild held a service at which time each member became a charter member.

The greater part of our budget is given to missions. Local church activities and a scholarship fund are the next largest contributions.

Although the majority of our members work outside the home, 20 members have been presented Life Membership pins for their efforts in carrying on the work and purpose of the guild; part of this purpose being to unite in a Christian fellowship to make Christ known throughout the world and to develop a personal responsibility for the whole program of the church.

By Mrs. P. B. Taylor

## Roster of Guild No. One, 1970

Mrs. Fate Adams, Mrs. Charles A. Barkley, Miss Jessie Baxter, Mrs. C. A. Brown, Mrs. George Cabaniss, Mrs. Ernest Campbell, Mrs. T. R. Carson, Mrs. B. T. Collins, Mrs. Kyle Davis.

Miss Evelyn Dellinger, Mrs. James R. Dellinger, Jr., Mrs. William F. Eaker, Mrs. V. J. Earley, Mrs. Ruth Eekle, Mrs. E. T. Etheridge, Mrs. Roy H. Ferguson, Mrs. Morris Friedman.

Mrs. Paul H. Gordon, Mrs. A. H. Haynes, Mrs. Bailey F. Hatcher, Mrs. James L. Hopkins, Miss

Emily Howell, Mrs. E. H. Johnston, Mrs. William E. Jordan, Mrs. W. L. Kirby, Miss Lillie Loftin.

Mrs. Kermit Lowry, Mrs. Jessie McAteer, Mrs. F. C. Michael, Mrs. G. Harold Miller, Mrs. Max A. Parrish, Mrs. Charles S. Pearson, Mrs. Albert A. Phillips, Mrs. Ernest E. Rankin.

Mrs. Lee Ray, Mrs. Roy E. Rockett, Mrs. C. Ed. Smith, Mrs. Charles E. Smith, Mrs. Pauline Taylor, Mrs. G. G. Walker, Miss Aliee Wallaee, Mrs. C. C. Wallaee, Mrs. Graydon C. Watts, Mrs. Ella Mae York, Mrs. Leslie M. Morris (Co-ordinator).

## HISTORY OF THE WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD NO. 2



1970 Officers of Guild No. 2

Pictured at left are the officers of the Wesleyan Service Guild No. 2 whose terms expire in December, 1971.

Seated (l. to r.): Mrs. Robert L. Culp, secretary; Miss Fay Elizabeth Lavender, treasurer; and Mrs. Walter V. Davidson, president. Standing: Mrs. Robert L. Baker, Jr., vice-president. Mrs. Nell Lavender, co-ordinator, was not present when picture was made.

The Wesleyan Service Guild No. 2 of First United Methodist Church was organized in 1939 with 18 members on the charter roll. Miss Minnie Lee Peedin was organizer and leader of this group until she left Gastonia to assume a position at Lenior-Rhyne College in Hickory. Two of the charter members remain on our Guild roll today. They are Elizabeth Lavender and Attie Belle Liles.

Guild No. 2 has been a very active group throughout the years. Several projects have been

carried out by the Guild, such as sponsoring a student in one of the Methodist homes or a local member of our church and community. Another project that our Guild has participated in very actively for several years is the "adopting" of a needy family who is always remembered during the Holiday Season as well as during the year for any necessary needs.

Our present membership is 30 with an average attendance at our monthly meetings of 20 members.

# HISTORY OF THE WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD NO. 3

The Wesleyan Service Guild No. 3 was organized in 1948. The first president was Miss Lucille Williams. Since its organization, its members have undertaken many projects of a service nature. Over the years Guild No. 3 had special programs financed by candy and nut sales, personal contributions of money, groceries and clothing. Thanksgiving and Christmas baskets have been given to needy persons and families each year.

Contributions have also been given to Bethlehem Center in Charlotte, the Day Care Center in South Gastonia, and Broughton Hospital in Morganton.

The officers of the Guild for 1970 are: Mrs. Webster Heine, president; Mrs. James Stewart and Mrs. Robert Coleman, vice presidents; Mrs. Russ Clark, secretary; Mrs. John Senter, treasurer, and Mrs. B. A. Fair, co-ordinator. Only two charter members are still on our membership roll: Mrs. Seth White, Jr., and Mrs. Robert Rawlings.

## 1937 Choir

From an old church bulletin for Sunday, December 19, 1937, we list the members of the choir at that time:

First sopranos: Mrs. Harvey Holmes, Mrs. C. P. Elam, Mrs. J. D. Mashburn, Miss Leona Smith, Mrs. John C. Roberts. Second Sopranos: Miss Lillian Parker, Miss Lois Moore, Mrs. Fay Lavender, Mrs. B. T. Morris, Mrs. A. M. Dixon. Altos: Miss Rena Mae Campbell, Mrs. G. R. Spencer, Miss Shirley Hovis, Miss Kathryn Todd, Miss Lottie Parker, Miss Elizabeth Hollis, Mrs. J. L. McAtee.

Tenors: E. D. Atkins, C. W. Winchester, Lee Spencer, John Derr. Basses: F. C. Todd, Ennis Atkins, Paul Withers, S. S. Shuford, W. W. Binderman.

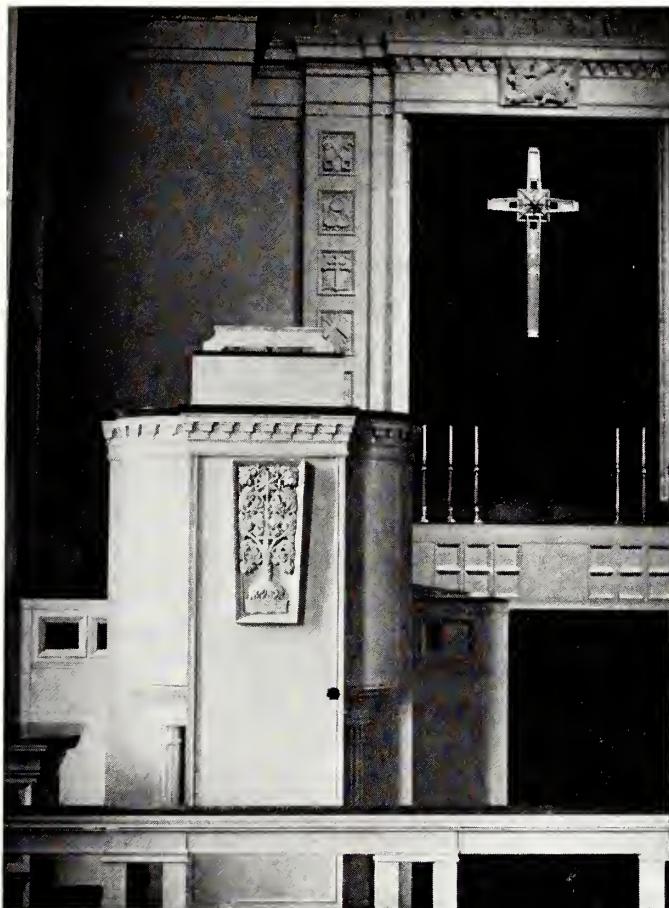
The organist was Miss Margaret Morris and the choir director was Mrs. A. M. Dixon.



Pictured above are four officers of Guild No. 3 for 1970. Front row (l. to r.): Mrs. Robert Coleman and Mrs. James H. Stewart. Top row: Mrs. Webster R. Heine and Mrs. John Senter. Mrs. Russ Clark and Mrs. B. A. Fair were not present when picture was made.



The three-manual organ console of our excellent Moller pipe organ is floor-recessed in the chancel.



## The Pulpit

The pulpit, a focal point in the chancel, is decorated with a carving of a Jesse tree, signifying our Lord's human genealogy. Behind the pulpit is the altar with six silver candles and the golden cross in the background.

Pictured below is a portion of the spacious and beautifully decorated church parlor. It was furnished by the Woman's Society of Christian Service of the church. The blue-green of the carpet and the old gold of the heavy draperies blend pleasingly with the color of the fabrics on the large couches and overstuffed chairs. The decorative effect is complimented by sconces, pictures, a bronze chandelier and small pieces of furniture.



## The Church Parlor

## THE CHURCH CHOIRS



This picture, made in 1950, presents the members of the Chancel Choir.

Front row (l. to r.): Rev. Ray Branton, director; Mrs. Edith Kersh, organist.

Second row (l. to r.): Mrs. C. E. Nixon, Ruth Williams (Mrs. E. W. Hellwig), Mrs. Frank Griffin, Mrs. Elizabeth Carson, Mrs. A. C. McCraney, Ruth Day Michael (Mrs. W. W. Dickson).

Third row: Mrs. B. A. Fair, Julia Stewart Spencer, Mrs. Charlton Brown, Mrs. Lloyd Spargo, Mrs. Joe Goodnight, Dede Smith (Mrs. Dan Gunter), Lottie Parker, Mary Ann Spencer (Mrs. Louis Goodman), Mrs. Jessie McAteer.

Fourth row: Mrs. Harvey Holmes, Mrs. Nell Lavender, Mrs. A. J. Kirby, Jr., Mrs. Fred Byrd, Jr., Mrs. Leola Byerly, Mrs. Edith Pidgeon, Peggy Malone, Bennie Jo Michael (Mrs. Dan Howe), Gloria Gordon (Mrs. Bob Haygood, Jr.).

Fifth row: Robert F. Smith, A. B. Crawford, James L. Wingate, Robert Stapleton, Dan Pressley, Frank Moore, A. C. McCraney, A. J. Kirby, Jr., Russell Baker, and Doug Jamison.  
(Photo—Ennis Atkins, also a choir member.)

The first music director on record for a choir of our church served about 1885. She was a Miss Ellen Page at the time and came here as a school teacher. She later became Mrs. B. T. Morris, and served the church in several capacities for many years, and was the first musical director and organist.

Down through the years, the church had several choir directors whose choirs gave excellent music for the congregations.

In the earlier days of the Main Street Church, the following served as organists: Mrs. Elsie Stokes

Sifford, Mrs. Carrie Morris Cork, Mrs. Nellie Rose Sloan Wilson, Mrs. Isabel Babington Moore, Miss Margaret Morris and Robert Barkley (substituting). Mrs. Edith Kersh became organist in 1948 and continues to this date. George Thompson was the first choir director and organist for the 1900 church (1900-1902).

Those who served as choir directors in the early days of the 1900 church and up to 1952 were: Mrs. Jane Morris Cojean, Edwin Steckel, Mrs. Ruth Mason Williams, Mrs. Beeler Moore, Mrs. Marie

## THE CHANCEL CHOIR OF 1970



The above photo presents the Chancel Choir of 1970. Front row (l. to r.): Mrs. Edith Morrow Kersh (director and organist), Mrs. Ted Warlick, Miss Julia Stewart Spencer, Mrs. Myrtle Gregory, Mrs. Charles D. Gray III, Mrs. Jessie McAtee, Mrs. James A. Dunn, Mrs. Theodore Kafitz. Second row: Mrs. George C. Cutts, Mrs. James C. Smith, Mrs. Phillip K. Brooks, Miss Joyce Thomas, Mrs. Marshall Dilling, Jr., Mrs. Robert W. Gray, Jr., Mrs. C. A. Brown, Mrs. James C. Sparks, Mrs. Wilma Reep.

Third row: James L. Wingate, Terry Wallace, Dr. Joel Conner, Mrs. Dick Giles, Mrs. Harry Jenkins, Jr., Mrs. W. T. Robison, Jr., Mrs. Dan Gunter, Jr., Mrs. Terry Wallace, Mrs. B. F. Goode, Mrs. Carl B. Harrelson, Mrs. B. A. Fair. Fourth row: James C. Smith, Kyle Davis, Oren Fulton, Robert F. Smith, Lester F. Crenshaw, Jr., Hugh T. Giles, Charles Ray Thomas, T. Glenn Rowland, and W. David Smith. (Photo—Hackney)

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Torrence Lattimore, Mrs. Arthur Dixon, Mrs. Leona Smith Brabham, and Ray Branton.

George P. Clark, Jr., came as director of music and recreation on October 1, 1951. He was called to active duty in the Navy and left on March 10, 1952.

The Rev. Ray Branton, who had completed background work at Birmingham that was necessary for admission to graduate school of music—Union Theological Seminary—was available and served from March, 1952 to September, 1952 when he entered U.T.S.

Mrs. James E. McNeely, Jr., and Tony Emmanuel were interim directors until William W. Collins came in June, 1953 and served until August, 1956. Philip T. Blackwood arrived in August, 1956 and was choir director until July, 1959.

Mrs. Edith Morrow Kersh was asked to serve as

temporary choir director and organist in July, 1959. She has been church organist since March, 1948. She has been doing such excellent work as director and organist that the church music committee forgot about her “temporary” status as director. Mrs. Kersh, besides having the responsibility of directing the senior choir and playing the pipe organ for services, also is in charge of six other church choirs. These include: Cherub Choir (4 and 5 years old), Elementary I and II (grades 1 and 2), Elementary III and IV (grades 3-6), Wesley Choir (grades 7-8), Youth Choir (grades 9, 10 11, 12), and the Handbell Choir.

### Music Committee

Our music committee includes: Chairman Hugh T. Giles, Kay Allen, Mrs. Edith Kersh, Mrs. O. K. Forrester, Dr. Ben Dawsey, Mrs. W. B. Hair, and Glenn Rowland.

## TROOP 7—BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA



Troop 7 scouts camping at Philmont Scout Ranch, Cimarron, New Mexico.

It is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to provide for boys an effective program designed to build desirable qualities of character, to train in the responsibilities of participating citizenship, and to develop in them personal fitness, thus to help in the development of American citizens who:

- \* Are physically, mentally, and emotionally fit.
- \* Have a high degree of self-reliance as evidenced in such qualities as initiative, courage, and resourcefulness.
- \* Have personal and stable values firmly based on religious concepts.
- \* Have the desire and the skills to help others.
- \* Understand the principles of the American social, economic, and Governmental system.
- \* Are knowledgeable about and take pride in their American heritage and understand America's role in the world.
- \* Have a keen respect for the basic rights of others.

\* Are prepared to fulfill the varied responsibilities of participating in and giving leadership to American society and in the forums of the world.

Troop 7 was chartered on December 7, 1924 with W. G. Hamner commissioned as Scoutmaster. Harry Long, Sr., was commissioned to serve as assistant scoutmaster. The charter troop, composed of these two men and eighteen boys, met on Monday nights at what then was the Main Street Methodist Episcopal Church, South.

Boy Scout Troop 7 has been a continuous part of the youth program of First United Methodist Church for the past forty-six years. Over the years, the following fifteen men have served in the position of Scoutmaster: W. G. Hamner, Louis A. States, Jr., Paul J. Kennedy, Ennis W. Atkins, Eugene H. Johnston, Douglas R. Beard, G. D. Webb, H. D. French, Roland T. Hamner, K. Lynn Stevenson, Robert R. Rankin, John M. McKenzie, James R. Wells, Neal B. Knightlinger, and Richard Shumate. The troop, presently composed of sixteen boys, is under the adult leadership of Fred Goodson.

## OUR GIRL SCOUT PROGRAM



Girl Scouts busy with a project in the Educational Building

Scouting is a value-rooted, people-centered movement, and "movement" means a series of acts working toward some desired aim. The aim is better people; not better knot tiers, not better fire builders, not better artists; but better people.

To be sure, when a Girl Scout has completed a part of the program, her badge of proficiency says she is competent and can be relied upon in that, but this is a bonus. Our reason for being is not fire-building, but character-building.

The scouting at our church involves approximately 50 girls and 5 adults in three troops. These girls are exposed to such character-building programs as troop management, citizenship and international awareness, health and safety, service and social action, as well as songs and games, crafts and camping.

As an example of one year's service projects, one troop gave time visiting shut-ins and lonely people. Another troop spent money earned through cookie

sales to invite an underprivileged Scout Troop on a cookout. A needy family received clothing, food, toys, and handmade tree decorations at Christmas. Also, toys were made for an underprivileged day care center.

The informal, educational Scout program, centered around the interests and abilities of girls, is the vehicle in which the girls are transported along the journey towards becoming self-realized, courageous, compassionate, concerned and committed women.

Scouting is a way of life—a program with a purpose, based on ideals and a code of conduct.

The following are the Scout leaders and workers:

Girl Scout Representative, Mrs. Richard Penegar; Brownie Scouts, Mrs. Richard Penegar and Mrs. H. K. Herrin, Jr.; Junior Girl Scouts, Mrs. Jack Cleavenger and Mrs. Mack Anders; Cadette Scouts, Mrs. G. Daniel Davis; Senior Girl Scouts, Mrs. Ed Starr.

## NEW PARSONAGE CONSTRUCTED IN 1958



The old brick parsonage, built in 1920 behind the Main Street Church, facing South Oakland Street, was demolished to make room for the new church construction. Temporarily, a residence on Patrick Avenue was used as a parsonage.

On November 7, 1957 ground was broken on a spacious lot at 1200 South Street and construction was begun by Contractor Roy L. Barnes on the new parsonage. The building was completed in March, 1958 at a cost of \$35,500.00 on a lot costing an additional \$8,500.00. The new parsonage is ample in room space and very conveniently arranged, in a setting of trees and well-kept grounds.

### The Parsonage Committee

The members of the parsonage committee who were in charge of the planning and construction of the parsonage worked diligently on their assignment and saw their project completed in record time. The committee members were:

*Harold Mercer, Chairman*

*Charles D. Gray, Sr., Treasurer*

*O. K. Forrester*

*A. P. Aldridge, Jr.*

*John R. Rankin*

*Mrs. J. Flay Bess*

*Mrs. L. S. Rankin, Sr.*

*Mrs. James T. Comer*

*E. G. Wilson*

# OUR CHURCH ORGANIZATION

## Administrative Board, 1970-1971

Chairman.....	Robert L. Allen	Treasurer.....	Horace Murphy
Secretary.....	Giles Arndt, Jr.	Lay Leader.....	George A. Jenkins
		Financial Secretary.....	Miss Evelyn Dellinger

### MEMBERS AT LARGE

Class of 1971	Class of 1972	Class of 1973
B. P. Albright	W. J. Cleveland	James H. Atkins
Giles Arndt, Jr.	J. T. Comer	Walter A. Blaine, III
A. H. Austin, Jr.	Earl Duckett	Robert E. Chambers
Don Barkley	W. G. Hardin, Jr.	Mrs. Jack L. Clevenger
Al Bohanan, Jr.	R. C. Haygood, Jr.	Ben B. Culp
Wilson Boshamer	Ralph Jonas	E. L. Flanagan, Jr.
Mrs. Hoyt Cunningham	Lin Hollowell, Jr.	James C. Fry
Mrs. O. K. Forrester	Mrs. F. J. Kandler	David Gaines
Charles Gray, III	J. K. Long, III	Mrs. E. S. Gordon
A. F. Harrelson	Horace S. Murphy	Mrs. Roland T. Hamner
R. B. Jenkins, Jr.	C. E. Nixon	David Hendricks
Kermit Lowry	Mrs. N. M. Patton, Jr.	John Land, Jr.
Mrs. Pat McSwain	J. C. Roberts, Jr.	Basil O. McGhee
G. Harold Miller	H. Keith Smith	R. V. McPhail, Jr.
Dr. Mary Ellen Nelson	Loyd Rose, Jr.	W. E. Rhyne
A. R. Rankin, Jr.	G. Edwin Starr	William C. Rustin, Jr.
Richard Simms	James H. Stewart	J. Wilson Setzer
Grady Stott	Basil Whitner	W. K. Smith
Woodrow Sugg		David M. Stewart
Parker Umstead		

### HONORARY MEMBERS AT LARGE

Frank L. Ashley	J. C. Roberts, Sr.	Lawrence S. Rankin
A. G. Myers	Charles D. Gray, Sr.	Dameron Williams
	T. S. Trott	

### TRUSTEES

Class of 1971	Class of 1972	Class of 1973
W. C. Yancey	Bain Jenkins	R. P. Caldwell
Grady Rankin	R. V. McPhail	Roy Barnes
Allen H. Sims	J. Mack Holland, Jr.	R. H. Pinnix

COUNCIL ON MINISTRIES.....	Dan B. Moser, Chairman
Robert L. Allen, Chm. of Administrative Board	Dr. Ben W. Dawsey, Missions
George Jenkins, Lay Leader	G. Harold Miller, Social Concerns
Mrs. John P. Fayssoux, President of WSCS	Lee Phoenix, Stewardship
Mrs. Pat McSwain, Children's Ministries	Bryan Houck, Worship
John Senter, Youth Ministries	Charles D. Gray, III, Chm. Quadrennial Emphasis Com.
Raymond Hackney, Adult Ministries	Lonnie Baker, U.M.Y., Youth Representative
Mrs. Ted Hosick, Ecumenical Affairs	Charles E. Shannon, Pastor
Alfred W. Bohanan, Jr., Education	Howard R. Jordan, Associate Pastor
J. Thomas Weant, Evangelism	Kirk McNeil, Minister of Education

### WOMEN'S SOCIETY OF CHRISTIAN SERVICE

Mrs. John Fayssoux, President	Mrs. W. J. Cleveland, Secretary
Mrs. John O. Durham, V. President	Mrs. Don McGinnis, Treasurer

### WESLEYAN SERVICE GUILD

Mrs. T. R. Carson, President, Guild No. 1	Mrs. Walter Davidson, President, Guild No. 2
	Mrs. W. R. Heine, President, Guild No. 3

# FORMAL DEDICATION

## FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH GASTONIA, NORTH CAROLINA

The First United Methodist Church of Gastonia was formally dedicated on December 13, 1970.

Dr. Charles E. Shannon, Lector

### ORDER OF WORSHIP SERVICE OF DEDICATION

ORGAN PRELUDE: "Suite Gothique" ..... Boellman

CALL TO WORSHIP: "How blessed is this place, O Lord,  
Where Thou art worshipped and adored;  
In faith we here an altar raise  
To Thy great glory, God of praise"—Kent

WORDS OF ASSURANCE:

HYMN NO. 297: "The Church's One Foundation" ..... Stone

INVOCATION:

THE ANTHEM: "How Lovely Is Thy Dwelling Place" ..... Brahms

RESPONSIVE READING: ..... Dr. Charles White

THE GLORIA PATRI

THE AFFIRMATION OF FAITH: The Apostles' Creed

THE READING OF THE HOLY SCRIPTURES: .. The Rev. Howard Jordan

PRAYER: ..... The Rev. Kirk McNeill

THE MORNING OFFERING:

THE OFFERTORY ANTHEM: "Surely The Lord Is In This Place" .. Mueller

DEDICATION OF OFFERING: The Doxology

SERMON: "The Inside of the Cup" ..... Bishop Earl G. Hunt

### THE ACT OF DEDICATION

Those taking part: R. H. Pinnix, Chairman of the Board of Trustees; Dr. Earl G. Hunt, Presiding Bishop, Charlotte Area; Dr. C. E. Rozelle, Dr. E. H. Blackard, Dr. Wilson O. Weldon, The Rev. Clyde Murray, Dr. J. G. Huggin, and Dr. C. C. Herbert, Jr.

HYMN NO. 478: "Lead On, O King Eternal" ..... Shurtleff

BENEDICTION: ..... Bishop Earl G. Hunt

CHORAL RESPONSE:

POSTLUDE: "Fantasia in A" ..... J. S. Bach

Our ministers: Dr. Charles E. Shannon, pastor; the Rev. Howard R. Jordan, associate pastor; the Rev. W. Kirk McNeill, minister of education.

# THE CHURCH BUDGET FOR 1970-1971

**\$212,440.00**

The First Methodist Church celebrated its first 100 years of service to Gastonia and Gaston County this year. During these 100 years thousands of persons have been members of this congregation and through it, they have served their Lord as they have served their fellowmen.

Our programs for service are varied and numerous and are the result of detailed planning by boards and commissions made up of leading laymen and laywomen of this congregation. Our contributions through the church this year go toward the following expenditures:

**BENEVOLENCES: ..... \$69,350.00**

United Methodism is at work in the world all around us, and working with other Methodists our gifts help in supporting: 1475 missionaries serving across the world; the Bethlehem Center; Brevard, High Point, Greensboro, and Pfeiffer Colleges, Duke Divinity School, The Methodist Home, Cherokee Mission, Wesley Nursing Center, The Children's Home, pension funds for retired Methodist ministers and their widows in Western North Carolina, and minimum salaries for mountain and struggling mission congregations.

**SALARIES: ..... \$78,521.00**

Our staff of 14 persons is ready at all times to help carry out a multi-faceted program which

goes on seven days a week. The staff includes: one minister, one associate minister, a minister of education, an educational associate, a director of music, a business manager, financial secretary, church hostess, two secretaries, cook, building superintendent, one janitor and one maid.

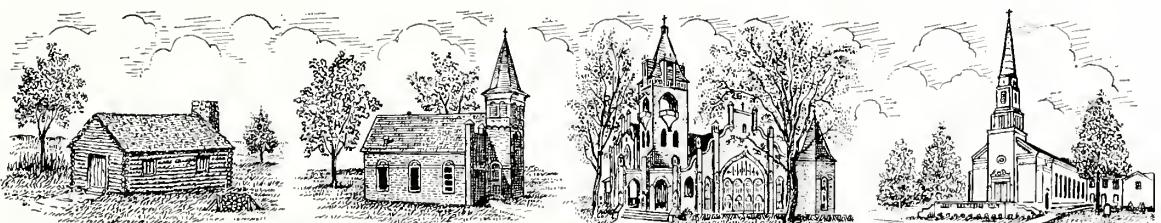
**BUILDING AND EQUIPMENT ..... \$24,850.00**

The main church plant was constructed in 1955 and the Youth Building was completed more than 40 years ago. Valued at more than 1 1/2 million dollars, these buildings as well as the new parsonage, require insurance coverage, regular maintenance and occasional improvements. During this church year, we are retiring the indebtedness on all church properties.

**LOCAL CHURCH PROGRAM**

**PROMOTION: ..... \$39,730.00**

Our constituency of more than 2,000 members represents over 825 family units for whom our varied programs of education, worship, evangelism, recreation, mission and social concerns are planned.



# THE FINANCIAL POSITION of the FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

As we contemplate one hundred years of the history of our church, it is interesting to examine the financial progress made since the humble beginning in the log church of Shiloh.

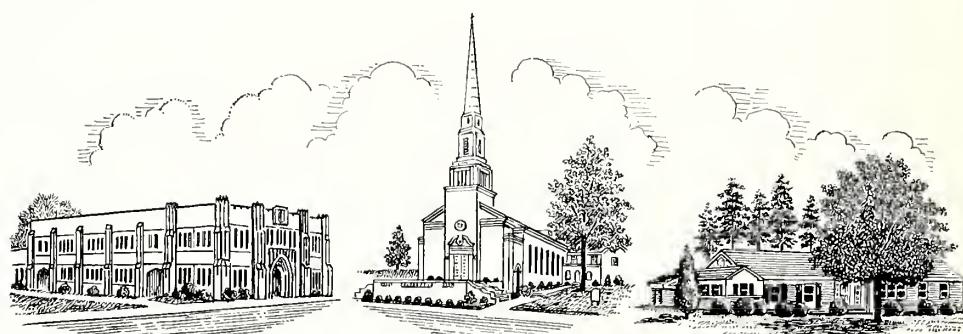
The following is a presentation of the cost of our present property and today's insurance appraisal value:

Church plant cost (1954-1955) .....	\$845,539.00
(This total includes \$150,000.00 borrowed monies)	
Cost of land (1954) (lot on Franklin Ave.) .....	\$100,000.00
Estimated value of Main Street property .....	\$100,000.00
Parsonage cost (furnishings extra) .....	\$ 44,000.00
Furniture, organ, etc., through years 1955-1970 (for church) .....	\$204,684.00

## Today's Insurance Appraisal Value:

Church buildings including Youth Center .....	\$1,740,000.00
Land for church buildings .....	\$ 200,000.00
Furnishings .....	\$ 115,000.00
Parsonage building .....	\$ 60,000.00
Land occupied by parsonage .....	\$ 5,000.00
Furnishings for parsonage .....	\$ 10,000.00
 Total	 \$2,131,000.00

All church property is free of debt.



## IN TRIBUTE TO EVELYN DELLINGER

It is my determination to pay proper tribute to Evelyn Dellinger for the many years of conscientious service she has given to her church. She is, I believe, the oldest staff member, in point of service, having been in office since 1935.

Dr. Shannon described, in the adjoining column, her many and varied church activities and her fine qualities of character. Many of the members of our congregation seldom realize the extent of her activities, and at times she has not been given proper credit for the work she has done and is doing.

With all her efficiency, Evelyn Dellinger remains good-humored, always helpful, and a very fine person. She is a walking encyclopedia, possessed of an electronic memory. She has first-hand knowledge of the operations of our church, its history and its members for the thirty-five years she has served the church. Evelyn has graciously shared her knowledge with those of us who have compiled the material for this history.

—Dameron H. Williams

In a large measure, the history of any institution is the story of the individuals who compose the organization, and to tell the story of First United Methodist Church's first century of service necessitates a large tribute to Evelyn Dellinger.

For thirty-five years, Evelyn has been a vital part of the staff of this congregation, and was influential as a member of our Youth Department before becoming an employee. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. J. R. Dellinger, nurtured her in this church, for her father was treasurer for more than twenty-five years. Beginning in June 1935, when the Rev. John W. Moore was pastor, she has worked with nine different senior ministers, two associate ministers, and nine directors of education. She has witnessed the growth of total membership from 1300 to 2000, and in these 35 years has seen more than 2000 members move in and out of this congregation as they were transferred to and from the



Miss Evelyn Dellinger  
Church Financial Secretary

city. When she came to the staff, she was one of three full-time workers: the minister, the secretary, and the janitor; and at times she has had to fill in for each of the others. Her job analysis is impossible to reduce to writing. At one time or another, she has been Secretary, Director of Christian Education, Financial Secretary, custodian of official records of the church, and church visitor. Beyond these specified duties, she has acted as chauffeur for ministers' families; baby-sitter for PK's (Preachers' Kids); cared for children, dogs, cats, and other pets of the parishioners and preachers as well; has tolled the bell for funerals (a custom now happily discarded); stoked the furnace when the janitor was ill; given out parking meter covers—you name it, if the job had to be done and she was around, she volunteered.

The present staff of fourteen full-time workers turns constantly to Miss Dellinger for information about persons and programs, and she always shares her knowledge and experience in a most helpful way. Cooperative, courteous, knowledgeable, and invaluable are words used by staff and congregation alike to describe this excellent worker.

By Dr. Charles E. Shannon

## STAFF MEMBERS—1970

Pictured at right are (l. to r.): Miss Evelyn Dellinger, church and financial secretary; Mrs. Duncan Hite, minister's secretary; and Miss Bonnie Burrell (Mrs. Harry Gibson), educational secretary.



At left are shown (l. to r.): Mrs. John Kersh, choir director; Horace Murphy, business manager for the church; and Miss Pat Barton (Mrs. William Wilhelm), director of the children's program.

## STAFF MEMBERS—1970



In the picture at left are shown (l. to r.): Mrs. Harry Long, the church hostess, and Mrs. Ezell Boykin, church cook. From this kitchen come delicious meals.

At right are (l. to r.): Mrs. Vernon Davis, maid; Lee Floyd, janitor; and Vernon Davis, janitor. They keep the church in excellent condition.



# ROSTER OF THE CONGREGATION

## AS OF DECEMBER 31, 1970

Gastonia, N. C. where town is not listed.

ABERNETHY, Mr. J. Robert  
280 N. Edgemont Ave.

ABERNETHY, Mr. James Robert, Jr.  
344 W. Chickasaw Rd.  
Virginia Beach, Va.

ADAIR, Mrs. Polly  
Morganton, N. C.

ADAMS, Mr. & Mrs. Fate  
1210 Oakwood Ave.

ADDINGTON, Mr. & Mrs. Larry  
1407 Circle Dr.

ALBRIGHT, Mr. & Mrs. B. P.  
Alan, Jane & Meredith Lucille  
2526 Sheffield Dr.

ALDRIDGE, Mr. & Mrs. A. P., Jr.  
Alfred P., III  
319 S. York St.

ALEXANDER, Mrs. A. A.  
1310 Union Rd.

ALEXANDER, Mr. & Mrs. John  
510 Moton Rd.

ALLEN, Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy B.  
Laura  
916 Holly Dr.

ALLEN, Mrs. Polly B.  
Earl Wattes, Jr.  
388 N. Edgemont Ave.

ALLEN, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L.  
Janet, Novelyn, Bobbie Kay & Judy  
Anne  
3159 Whitson Rd.

AMES, Mrs. Evelyn  
Tryon, N. C.

ANDERS, Mr. & Mrs. M. G., Jr.  
Susan Lee & Amy Kimberly  
804 Townsend Ave.

ANDERSON, Mr. & Mrs. J. K., Jr.  
James Robert & Richard Thomas  
845 S. Chester St.

ANDERSON, Mr. & Mrs. Robert M.  
Charles S. Mantooth, Jr.  
207 W. Fifth Ave.

ANDREWS, Mrs. Cleveland  
1140 Belvedere Ave.

ANDREWS, Billie Kyle  
428 W. Main St.

ANGEL, Miss Ruth  
526 S. Clay St.

ARMSTRONG, Mrs. John F.  
Mary Elizabeth  
815 E. 2nd Ave.

ARNDT, Mr. & Mrs. Giles J.  
Teresa Jean, Alice Lee &  
Giles Jerry, III  
600 Bridle Path Trail

ARROWOOD, Mrs. Jack  
Charlotte, N. C.

ARTHUR, Mr. & Mrs. James  
2001 Willimax Ave.

ASHLEY, Mr. Frank L.  
311 West 10th Ave.

ATKINS, Mr. Ben E., Jr.  
1112 S. Belvedere St.

ATKINS, Mr. & Mrs. Ennis W.  
512 Lee St.

ATKINS, Mr. & Mrs. James H.  
James H., Jr. & Laura  
1114 Scotch Dr.

ATKINS, Mrs. Stewart  
Mrs. Douglas S. Lanham  
1312 Park Lane

AUSTIN, Mrs. A. H.  
Grier Apt. 28  
Kendrick Dr.

AUSTIN, Mr. & Mrs. A. H., Jr.  
Pamela L. & Albert H., III  
1149 Nottingham Dr.

AUSTIN, Mrs. Ernest  
221 South St.

BABINGTON, Mrs. R. B., Jr.  
Lee  
203 W. Ninth Ave.

BAILEY, Miss Jeannie C.  
Mr. Pierre  
413 W. Second Ave.

BAILEY, Mr. & Mrs. W. D., Jr.  
712 Carlton Dr.

BAILEY, Miss Mary Catherine  
712 Carlton Dr.

BAITY, Mr. & Mrs. Bobby G.  
5358 Park Rd.  
Charlotte, N. C. 28209

BAKER, Mr. & Mrs. R. L., Jr.  
Robert Lonnie  
313 Armstrong Park Rd.

BAKER, Mr. & Mrs. R. W.  
1725 Fairfield Dr.

BALL, Mr. Frank Lee  
932 Laurel Lane

BALLARD, Mrs. Avery (Nannie)  
24 Line Dr., Dixon Trailer Camp  
Belmont, N. C.

BALLARD, Mr. & Mrs. B. M.  
1426 Lynnhurst Dr.

BALLARD, Mr. Kenneth Webb  
Charlotte, N. C.

BALLARD, Mrs. Joe C.  
Ray Winslow & Walter Daniel  
1323 W. Fourth Ave.

BALLARD, Miss Ola  
306 E. Fourth Ave.

BALLARD, Mrs. Tommy  
210 N. Maple St.  
Dallas, N. C.

BALLARD, Mr. & Mrs. Walter D.  
1337 N. New Hope Rd.

BARBER, Mr. & Mrs. A. F.  
115 Oakdale St.

BARFIELD, Mr. & Mrs. W. S.  
502 Hanna St.

BARFIELD, Miss Shelly Catherine  
502 Hanna St.

BARHAM, Mr. & Mrs. D. E.  
Sandra Lynn & Donald Everett  
1105 Dumbarton Rd.

BARKLEY, Mrs. Charles A.

Mr. Charles A., Jr.  
618 Eastwood Dr.

BARKLEY, Mr. Donald W.  
P. O. Box 369

BARKLEY, Mr. H. C.  
Henry Connor, Jr. & Mark Wallis  
107 N. Edgemont St.

BARKLEY, Mrs. Fred D.  
505½ Lee St.

BARKLEY, Mrs. Robert S., Jr.  
Robert S. III & Sally Ann  
806 N. Broad St.

BARLOW, Mr. & Mrs. Marvin  
Shelia Ann Settlemeyer  
605 Dartmouth Dr.

BARNES, Mr. & Mrs. Roy L.  
Miss Vicki  
826 South St.

BARNETT, Mr. & Mrs. Robert  
Robert C. & Timothy Ross  
1221 Oakwood Ave.

BARRINGER, Miss Irene  
505 W. Second Ave.

BARROWCLOUGH,  
Mr. & Mrs. Howard  
James H., Gilbert F. & Kevin D.

BARTON, Miss Patricia  
1104 South St.

BATES, Mr. & Mrs. C. J.  
1558 Poston Circle

BAUGII, Mrs. Tom, Jr.  
1439 Laurel Lane

BAXTER, Miss Jessie  
429 South York St.

BAYLESS, Mr. & Mrs. Neil  
Vicki & Laura  
630 Rosemary Lane

BEAL, Mrs. Giles L.  
1211 Hillside Dr.

BEAL, Mrs. John L.  
309 S. York St.

BEAM, Mr. & Mrs. Albert  
1226 Fern Forest Dr.

BEEKER, Mr. & Mrs. E. G.  
1213 E. Craig Ave.

BELL, Mr. & Mrs. R. L.  
Michael Lee & Mary Lynn  
709 South St.

BERNARD, Mr. & Mrs. Luther J.  
Dorothy Anne &  
Mrs. Ethel Lee Hinds  
1631 Hoyle St.

BIRMINGHAM, Mr. G. V.  
503 Carl St.

BISANAR, Mr. & Mrs. James  
Robert M.  
1111 Craig Ave.

BLACK, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry D.  
307 N. Ransom St.

BLACKBURN, Mrs. O. M.  
David Arnold  
1006 E. Sixth Ave.

BLAINE, Mr. & Mrs. Walter A.  
1916 Berkshire Dr.

BLAIR, Mr. & Mrs. George  
Judy Carol, George Kenneth &

Jeffery Allen  
522 Deerwood Dr.

BLANTON, Mr. Wilbur J.  
Charlotte, N. C.

BOOKOUT, Mrs. Fred  
Michael Stephen  
423 S. Chester St.

BOOKOUT, Mrs. William L.  
Steve & Michael Craig Harris  
601 Eastwood Dr.

BOGUCKI, Mr. & Mrs. H. J.  
Brenda Leigh  
111 N. Belvedere Ave.

BOHANAN, Mr. & Mrs. Alfred, Jr.  
Steven Alfred  
Route 1, Rudisill Park  
Dallas, N. C.

BOSHAMER, Mr. & Mrs. Cary C.  
436 New Hope Rd.

BOSHAMER, Mrs. C. W.  
916 Churchill Dr.

BOSHAMER, Mr. & Mrs. C. Wilson  
Thomas Higgins &  
Clarence Wilson III  
3601 Country Club Dr.

BOWDEN, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene  
Mrs. Rita B. Johnson,  
John C. & Michael William  
710 S. Lee St.

BOYD, Grover D., III  
BOYD, Carroll  
Charlotte, N. C.

BOYS, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest M.  
Mrs. Susan B. Garrison  
2524 Fairfax Dr.

BOYS, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest M., Jr.  
Wilkinson Blvd.

BRABHAM, Mrs. P. O.  
1223 Jones St.

BRADLEY, Mrs. Robert Leigh, Jr.  
1113 Dumbarton Rd.

BRADSHAW, Mr. & Mrs. J. R.  
Robert Lewis & Nancy B.  
2421 Armstrong Park Circle

BRITTON, Mr. & Mrs. L. B., Jr.

BROOKS, Mr. & Mrs. Richard O.  
Patricia E., Michael E. &  
Walter Richard  
1414 Churchill Dr.

BROOKS, Mr. & Mrs. Peter D.  
3034 Courtland Dr.

BROOKS, Mr. & Mrs. Phillip K.  
1737 Linwood Rd.

BROTHERTON, Mrs. Henry  
904 Robinwood Rd.

BROWN, Mr. & Mrs. A. C.  
2111 Pamela St.

BROWN, Mr. & Mrs. A. C., Jr.  
1619 Chesterfield Court

BROWN, Mr. & Mrs. Leroy R.  
Mrs. Betty B. Gaddis  
324 S. Chestnut St.

BRUSTER, Miss Louise M.

BRYAN, Mr. Cody E.  
1201 East Dr.

BUMGARDNER,  
Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth G.  
1140 E. Franklin Ave.

BURDETTE, Mr. & Mrs. Roy C.

BURTON, Mrs. G. W.

BURTON, Mr. & Mrs. Neal  
2207 Pineview Lane

BYRD, Mr. Fred  
200 S. Marietta St.

BYRD, Mr. Fred, Jr.  
1117 S. Edgemont Ave.

CABINESS, Mrs. George C.  
107½ N. Edgemont Ave.

CABE, Mr. & Mrs. T. B.  
507 E. Fifth Ave.

CAIN, Dr. & Mrs. Frank, Jr.  
Johnny C., Jeffrey & Steve  
1535 Pineola Dr.

CAIN, Mr. & Mrs. Frank, Sr.  
1623 Fairfield Dr.

CALDWELL, Dr. & Mrs. Jesse  
Jesse B. III, Charles G.,  
Lawson H. & Martha C.  
1307 Park Lane

CALDWELL, Mr. & Mrs. R. P.  
Shelton & Maye Annelle  
1208 E. Franklin Ave.

CAMPBELL, Mrs. Claude L.  
Claude L. III & Jeanna  
2202 Scottwood Dr.

CAMPBELL, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest M.  
507 W. Garrison Ave.

CAMPBELL, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry G.  
282 N. Edgemont Ave.

CAMPBELL, Mr. & Mrs. Lester P.  
Gayle Anne, Charles Kenneth &  
Sharon  
312 S. Oakland St.

CANIPE, Mr. & Mrs. B. N.  
James Boyd  
203 Beverly Dr.

CANNON, Mr. & Mrs. Clarence L.  
Mrs. Constance C. Wallace &  
Michael Louis Cannon  
1668 Westbrook Circle

CANTRELL, Mrs. Oliver V.  
Sara Ellen  
1132 Midway Dr.

CARPENTER, Mr. & Mrs. C. C.  
708 Townsend Ave.

CARPENTER, Mrs. Tom  
500 S. York St.

CARPER, Mrs. A. T.  
Charlotte, N. C.

CARRUTHERS,  
Mr. & Mrs. Woodrow  
1022 Temple Court

CARSON, Mr. M. A.  
1300 Idlewood Circle

CARSON, Mrs. Paul W.  
1609 Jackson Rd.

CARSON, Mr. Phillip  
CARSON, Mr. & Mrs. Rudolph  
1203 Crescent Ave.

CASE, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas  
1303 Lynnhaven Dr.

CAUFIELD, Mr. A. V.  
Box 3595, Akers Center

CHADWICK, Mr. Ned  
617 Dartmouth Dr.

CHAMBERS, Dr. & Mrs. Robert E.  
Terrence Allen, Harry R., Richard  
Scott & Todd H.  
2544 Sheffield Dr.

CHANDLER, Mrs. Dorothy G.  
717 S. Lee St.

CHANDLER, Mrs. J. P.  
Helen & Andrew  
116 W. Third Ave.

CHERRY, Mrs. R. Gregg  
Medi-Center

CHESHIRE, Mrs. R. B.  
204 W. Second Ave.

CHESNUTT, Mr. & Mrs. N. B., Jr.  
1605 Dixon Rd.

CHILDERS, Mr. & Mrs. Herman  
CHILDERS, Mr. & Mrs. Tucker  
504 W. Sixth Ave.

CHILDRESS, Mrs. H. C.  
Greensboro, N. C.

CLEVELAND, Mr. & Mrs. W. J.  
Rebecca Jane & William  
1905 York Rd.

CLEVENGER, Mr. & Mrs. Jack L.  
Jack D., David Lee & Cindy Lou  
1404 Poston Circle

CLINE, Mrs. Donald  
Greensboro, N. C.

CLONIGER, Mr. & Mrs. M. B., Jr.  
1611 Jackson Rd.

CLONIGER, Mrs. Charles H.  
Rachel  
516 Lee St.

COLE, Mr. & Mrs. Frank  
Frank, Jr. & Catherine

COLEMAN, Mr. & Mrs. Robert S.  
1800 Taylor Dr.

COLETTA, Mrs. Anthony  
314 S. Willow St.

COLLINS, Mrs. Byron T.  
Kay  
111 N. Patrick St.

COLLINS, Mr. & Mrs. B. Ted, Jr.  
661 Rosemary Lane

COLVIN, Mrs. D. C.  
647 Kirby Ave.

COLVIN, Mr. & Mrs. David C., Jr.  
Donna Susan & Elizabeth Anne  
633 Kirby Ave.

COMBS, Miss Mary Charles  
609 Dartmouth Dr.

COMER, Mr. & Mrs. James T.  
Mrs. Nancy C. Shuford &  
James T., III  
201 W. 10th Ave.

CONNER, Dr. & Mrs. Joel D.  
Joel Dewitt, Jr.  
2608 Armstrong Park Rd.

CONRAD, Mrs. Michael  
1717 Poston Circle

COSTNER, Mr. & Mrs. Robert E.  
Robert E., Jr.  
2960 Club Dr.

CRAFT, Mr. & Mrs. Roy E.  
Mrs. Pamela C. Keeter, Susan Hope  
& Roy Edwin, Jr.  
936 Churchill Dr.

CRAIG, Mrs. R. O., Sr.  
1147 S. Belvedere Ave.

CRAIG, Mr. & Mrs. Ben W., Jr.  
316 S. Broad St.

CRAIG, Mrs. Walter N.  
1121 Cumberland Ave.

CRENSHAW, Mrs. Lester F.  
1424 Fern Forest Dr.

CRENSHAW, Mr. & Mrs. Lester, Jr.  
Lester F., III & Mary Ann  
1210 Jones St.

CROCKER, Mr. & Mrs. Melvin  
Donna Lynn & Steven Ray  
618 Burtonwood Dr.

CRUSE, Mr. Robert Moore

2625 Armstrong Circle  
 CULP, Mr. & Mrs. Ben B.  
 Frances Ann, Benjamin B., Jr. &  
 Elizabeth II.  
 2510 Armstrong Circle  
 CULP, Mr. J. W., Jr.  
 Robert William & Charles Frederick  
 270 N. Edgemont Ave.  
 CULP, Mr. & Mrs. Robert L.  
 Pamela Jean  
 1416 Cambridge St.  
 CULP, Mr. & Mrs. William R.  
 Nancy Ann & William Reid, Jr.  
 802 Townsend Ave.  
 CUNNINGHAM, Mr. & Mrs. F. H.  
 507 S. Chester St.  
 CUNNINGHAM,  
 Mr. & Mrs. Hoyt, Jr.  
 Ann Benton  
 2305 Scottwood Rd.  
 CURRENT, Mr. & Mrs. David Ray  
 Martha, Brenda Ruth &  
 David Ray, Jr.  
 Fort Worth, Texas  
 CUTTS, Mrs. George  
 1230 Butler St.  
 DALTON, Mr. & Mrs. A. B.  
 Judy  
 819 Gibbons St.  
 DAMERON, Mr. & Mrs. H. A., Jr.  
 H. Allen, III  
 Greenville, S. C.  
 DAMERON, Mr. & Mrs. Joe  
 843 Hillcrest Ave.  
 DANIEL, Mr. & Mrs. David A.  
 509 W. Third Ave.  
 DARWIN, Mr. & Mrs. J. V.  
 David Allen, John Robert  
 604 S. Neil St.  
 DAVIDSON, Mr. & Mrs. Walter V.  
 Susan Olivia, Walter V., Jr.,  
 Deborah Moore &  
 Mrs. Mary D. Carter  
 1103 Balthis Dr.  
 DAVIS, Mr. & Mrs. Carl  
 407 E. Walnut St.  
 DAVIS, Mr. & Mrs. Donald  
 1231 Jackson Rd.  
 DAVIS, Mr. & Mrs. Kyle W.  
 Reginald Kyle & Danny R.  
 401 Hillcrest Ave.  
 DAVIS, Mrs. W. Mack  
 3032 Imperial Dr.  
 DAVIS, Mr. & Mrs. G. Daniel, Jr.  
 4307 Greenhaven Lane  
 DAVIS, Mr. & Mrs. Purvey  
 1033 Ridge Ave.  
 DAVIS, Mrs. W. C.  
 313 S. Broad St.  
 DAVIS, Mr. & Mrs. William N.  
 William Neil  
 1216 Jackson Rd.  
 DAWSEY, Dr. & Mrs. B. W.  
 Mrs. Rebecca D. Johnson &  
 Ben W., Jr.  
 1913 Armstrong Park Rd.  
 DEATON, Mr. & Mrs. W. E.  
 James William  
 1306 Jackson Rd.  
 DELLINGER, Mr. & Mrs. Bobby Lee  
 2952 Club Dr.  
 DELLINGER, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde L.  
 222 N. Weldon St.  
 DELLINGER, Mr. & Mrs. J. C.  
 707 W. 19th Ave.  
 DELLINGER, Miss Evelyn S.  
 317 S. Oakland St.  
 DELLINGER, Mr. & Mrs. James R.  
 1308 Fairfield Dr.  
 DELLINGER, Mr. & Mrs. Kenneth  
 Kay Camilla, Shirley &  
 Kenneth E., Jr.  
 1128 S. Edgemont Ave.  
 DELLINGER, Mr. Robert C.  
 Charlotte, N. C.  
 DENNY, Mr. & Mrs. O. B.  
 614 W. Airlane Ave.  
 DICKENS, Mr. & Mrs. W. H.  
 Wilmington, N. C.  
 DILLING, Mr. & Mrs. Marshall, Jr.  
 DILLING, Mr. Marshall, III  
 721 New Hope Rd.  
 DIXON, Mr. & Mrs. Roy E.  
 Frances Gail  
 2619 Club Dr.  
 DOBBINS, Mr. & Mrs. James C.  
 Vivian & James C., Jr.  
 1601 Fairfield Dr.  
 DOBBS, Mrs. J. W.  
 501 W. Garrison Blvd.  
 DOLLEY, Mr. & Mrs. Steve, Jr.  
 Frances  
 101 S. Belvedere Ave.  
 DOVER, Mr. & Mrs. Felix H.  
 2927 Whitson Rd.  
 DUCKETT, Mr. & Mrs. Earl  
 James A. & Susan E.  
 1106 E. Craig Ave.  
 DUNCAN, Mrs. James A.  
 814 W. Davidson Ave.  
 DUNN, Mr. & Mrs. Charles M., Jr.  
 Mrs. Sara D. Sparks  
 2206 Armstrong Park Rd.  
 DUNN, Mr. & Mrs. James A.  
 Alan  
 155 Eighth Ave.  
 Cramerton, N. C.  
 DURHAM, Mrs. John O.  
 1841 Country Club Dr.  
 DURHAM, Mr. Plato  
 1002 Edgewood Circle  
 DYER, Mrs. Deanna  
 1622 Anthony Dr.  
 EAKER, Mr. & Mrs. Ben  
 1715 Hartford Dr.  
 EAKER, Mr. & Mrs. Carl H.  
 905 E. Ninth Ave.  
 EAKER, Mr. & Mrs. William  
 1413 Lineberger St.  
 EARLEY, Mr. & Mrs. V. J.  
 1618 Davis Park Rd.  
 ECCLES, Mr. William Norman  
 Towson, Md.  
 EDDY, Mr. & Mrs. William W., Jr.  
 Jeannie & Jeffrey  
 420 Deerwood Dr.  
 EDISON, Mr. & Mrs. H. Rex  
 516 S. Chester St.  
 EDWARDS, Mr. & Mrs. John G.  
 Leigh  
 2536 Fairfax Dr.  
 EDWARDS, Mrs. Wayne B.  
 Florida

ELLEDGE, Mrs. W. A.  
 Miss Teresa  
 3100 Imperial Dr.  
 ELLIOTT, Mr. Charles C.  
 3022 Courtland Dr.  
 ELLIOTT, Mr. & Mrs. David Ray  
 410 Deerwood Dr.  
 ELLERBE, Mr. & Mrs. Harry  
 320 Armstrong Park Rd.  
 ELLESTAD, Dr. & Mrs. R. B.  
 Thomas & Richard  
 620 Holliday Rd.  
 ELMORE, Mr. & Mrs. Wm. G., Jr.  
 1226 Westbrook Circle  
 ENGLAND, Mr. & Mrs. Duke (A. R.)  
 Gina Leigh  
 807 Townsend Ave.  
 ENSLEY, Mrs. Margaret  
 Robert Clyde, Jr. & Jo Anne  
 ETHERIDGE, Mrs. E. T.  
 Dallas Rd.  
 EUDY, Mrs. J. H.  
 1502 Hargrove Ave.  
 EUDY, Mr. & Mrs. John  
 John A., Jr.  
 1406 Hargrove Ave.  
 FAIR, Mrs. B. A.  
 810 W. Davidson St.  
 FAYSSOUX, Mrs. J. O.  
 803 Townsend Ave.  
 FAYSSOUX, Mr. & Mrs. John  
 802 Townsend Ave.  
 FERGUSON, Mrs. Earl  
 208 N. Edgemont Ave.  
 FERGUSON, Mr. James F.  
 U. S. Army  
 FERGUSON, Mr. & Mrs. Roy H.  
 1606 Davis Park Rd.  
 FINLEY, Mrs. Lola Davis  
 223 South St., Apt. 1  
 FISCHER, Mr. & Mrs. Fred  
 526 S. Trenton St., Apt. 9  
 FLANAGAN, Mr. & Mrs. Edward L.  
 537 Eastwood Dr.  
 FLANAGAN, Mrs. Margaret  
 2427 Armstrong Circle  
 FORRESTER, Mrs. O. K.  
 1723 Fairfield Dr.  
 FREEMAN, Mr. & Mrs. W. C.  
 704 S. Chester St.  
 FRENCH, Mr. & Mrs. Douglas  
 Route 1, Box 136-D  
 Belmont, N. C. 28012  
 FRENCH, Mr. Jimmy D.  
 4013 Little Mountain Rd.  
 FRIDAY, Mr. Grier, Jr.  
 2102 E. Ozark Ave.  
 FRIEDMAN, Mrs. Morris  
 701 Torrence Dr.  
 FRY, Mr. & Mrs. James C.  
 Debra Sue  
 611 S. Lee St.  
 FULTON, Mr. & Mrs. J. Oren  
 Rita Elaine & Rhonda Kay  
 1708 Anthony Dr.  
 GAINES, Mr. & Mrs. David  
 1141 Woodvale Ave.  
 GAINES, Mrs. R. A.  
 Shirley & Mary Ellen  
 501 W. Sixth Ave.

GAINES, Mr. & Mrs. Robert E.  
Robert Burts  
624 Bridle Path Trail

GARBER, Mrs. M. I.  
521 Hawthorne Lane

GATLING, Mr. & Mrs. Willard I.  
Chapel Hill, N. C.

GIBSON, Mrs. N. W.  
1307 Jackson Rd.

GILES, Mr. & Mrs. Hugh  
Mrs. Jane C. Smith,  
Hugh & Christopher T.  
1306 Laurel Lane

GILES, Mr. & Mrs. Richard E.  
1626 Poston Circle

GILLESPIE, Mr. & Mrs. Reginald  
Reginald B., Jr.  
3034 Club Dr.

GLASS, Mrs. K. M.  
208 W. Second Ave.

GLENN, Dr. Charlie  
1319 Park Lane

GLENN, Mr. & Mrs. Evan  
604 Westwood Circle

GLIENKE, Mrs. Walter  
2401 Lowell Rd.

GOODE, Mr. & Mrs. B. F.  
1616 Fairfield Dr.

GOODMAN, Mrs. Mary Ann Spencer  
Los Angeles, California

GOODSON, Mr. & Mrs. Charley S.  
David Charles  
3705 Union Rd.

GOODSON, Mr. & Mrs. Fred I.  
Steven Fred & Mark Keither

GORDON, Mrs. Ed S.  
931 Athenian Dr.

GORDON, Mr. & Mrs. Paul H.  
1738 Armstrong Park Rd.

GRAGG, Mr. & Mrs. Jay C.  
Douglas R. Prestwood  
428 Evergreen St.

GRAHAM, Mr. & Mrs. Max  
Max L., Jr.  
606 Carolina Ave.

GRAVES, Mr. & Mrs. T. A.  
634 Eastwood Dr.

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. Charles D.  
1805 Country Club Rd.

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. Charles D., Jr.  
805 Carolina Ave.

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. Charles D., III  
2908 Imperial Dr.

GRAY, Mr. David  
Lake Norman, N. C.

GRAY, Mrs. Dorothy  
Mr. & Mrs. David Gray, Jr.  
1819 Country Club Rd.

GRAY, Mrs. Doris S.  
April, William & Mary  
1533 Fuller Dr.

GRAY, Mrs. George A., Sr.  
2320 Armstrong Circle

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. George A., Jr.  
George A. III & Sally  
1849 Country Club Rd.

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. James C.  
Mounty Holly, N. C.

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. Jake (J. Lander)  
Mrs. May G. Robinson & Walter H.  
220 W. Fourth Ave.

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. J. Lander III  
1943 Taylor Dr.

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. Robert W., Jr.  
1002 S. Marietta St.

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas Alexander  
1007 Hillside Dr.

GRAY, Mr. & Mrs. William F.  
Melissa Victoria & Ida Katherine  
943 Sandswood Dr.

GREBNER, Mrs. Richard  
609 Dartmouth Dr.

GREGORY, Mr. & Mrs. Frank  
New Jersey

GREGORY, Mrs. Myrtle R.  
425 S. Oak St.

GREGORY, Dr. & Mrs. William L.  
2405 Lowell Rd.

GRIFFIN, Mr. & Mrs. Frank B.  
Frank Winget  
504 South St.

GUNTER, Mrs. Charles W.  
415 W. Fifth Ave.

GUNTER, Mr. & Mrs. Dan C., Jr.  
Michael D., Robin Harriett &  
Caral June  
509 Hawthorne Lane

HACKNEY, Mr. & Mrs. R. W.  
Ellen Gail & Raymond William, Jr.  
514 Hawthorne Lane

HAGER, Mr. & Mrs. Ray  
Kathryn Ann & Kenneth Robert  
1408 Fairfield Dr.

HAIR, Mrs. W. B.  
1209 Fairfield Dr.

HAMILTON, Mrs. Charles E., Jr.  
Kirk McClure  
1717 Fairfield Dr.

HAMILTON,  
Mr. & Mrs. Charles E., III  
2009 Saratoga Dr.

HAMNER, Mrs. W. G.  
505 Lee St., Apt.

HAMNER, Mr. & Mrs. Roland T.  
Mary, Roland T., Jr.,  
Kathryn, Betty & James  
2102 Armstrong Park Rd.

HANCOCK, Mr. & Mrs. M. L., Jr.  
Susan Terry, Carol Lynn,  
Jeanne M. & Martin L., III  
1219 Crescent Ave.

HARBIN, Mr. James G.  
1706 Ozark Ave.

HARBIN, Mrs. Pauline  
Mrs. Brenda H. Corbitt  
911 Brunnett St.

HARDEE, Mr. & Mrs. Fred  
205 Springwood Dr.  
Belmont, N. C., 28012

HARDIN, Mr. & Mrs. W. G., Jr.  
Patricia Ann & William Guy, III  
1062 Paramount Circle

HARMON, Mrs. John Frank  
John C.  
1803 New Hope Rd.

HARMON, Mrs. Fannie M.  
603 Union Rd.

HARMON, Mr. & Mrs. T. E.  
Raymond O.  
1605 Florida Ave.

HARMON, Mr. & Mrs. Grady  
Kay  
616 E. Fourth Ave.

HARRELL, Mrs. B. W.  
318 Ruby Lane

HARRELSON, Mr. & Mrs. A. F.  
1606 N. New Hope Rd.

HARRELSON, Mr. & Mrs. Carl B.  
3031 Club Dr.

HARRELSON, Mr. & Mrs. Reid  
1611 Fairfield Dr.

HARRILL, Mr. & Mrs. Ray B.  
R. Baxter, Jr. & Joseph Harvey  
517 Hawthorne Lane

HARRIS, Mr. Cecil

HARRIS, Mr. George C.  
504 Granite Ave.

HARRIS, Mr. E. Stuart  
215 E. Franklin Ave.

HARRIS, Mrs. John Dixon  
Atlanta, Georgia

HARRIS, Mr. & Mrs. W. Reid, Jr.  
Ray & Michael Reid  
1607 Dixon Rd.

HARRIS, Mr. & Mrs. William  
Benjamin J., Mrs. Barbara H. Allen  
& Cynthia Marie  
1708 Fairfield Dr.

HARRISON, Mr. & Mrs. A. W.  
1442 Lynhurst Dr.

HARVELL, Mr. & Mrs. Basil  
Randy G.  
1109 E. Craig Ave.

HARVEY, Mr. & Mrs. William  
741 Forest Dr.

HATCHER, Mrs. Bailey F.  
1111 S. Cumberland Ave.

HAYES, Mr. & Mrs. Jerry T.  
1232 Queensgate Rd.

HAYES, Mr. & Mrs. William E.  
302 S. Columbia St.

HAYGOOD, Mr. & Mrs. Robert C., Jr.  
Robert Gordon & Patricia Ann  
701 Home Trail

HAYNES, Mr. & Mrs. A. H.  
614 E. Fourth Ave.

HAZEL, Mr. & Mrs. R. L.  
William & Robert Lee  
500 Downey Place

HEATH, Mrs. Harry  
411 N. Broad St.

HEARNE, Mr. & Mrs. Harold C.  
Harold C., Jr. & Jamie Lynn  
2501 Club Dr.

HEINTZMAN, Mrs. Alberta  
501 W. Third Ave.

HENDREN, Dr. Otis F.  
2585 Dixie Village

HEINE, Mr. & Mrs. Webster R., Jr.  
Webster R. III  
232 Armstrong Park Rd.

HELLWIG, Mr. & Mrs. E. W.  
Bakersfield, California

HENSON, Mr. & Mrs. G. N., Jr.  
2963 Whitson Rd.

HENDRICKS, Mr. & Mrs. Charles E.  
608 Dartmouth Dr.

HENDRICKS, Mr. & Mrs. David  
2200 Williamsburg Dr.  
Apt. 26

HENDRICKS, Mr. & Mrs. Walter E.  
Shirley, Bruce & Nancy  
953 Sandswood Dr.

HENRY, Mr. & Mrs. Charles  
221 S. Oakland St.

HERBERT, Mr. David O.  
414 W. Dale Ave.

HERIN, Mr. Thomas James  
Route 1, Box 137  
Durham, N. C.

HERRIN, Dr. & Mrs. H. K.  
Hermon Keith, Jr.,  
Mrs. Helen H. Woodruff & Robert A.  
709 Kemwick Circle

HICKS, Mr. & Mrs. J. D.  
James Dwight, Jr.  
631 Townsend Ave.

HICKMAN, Mr. & Mrs. H. H.  
414 S. Broad St.

HINDS, Mrs. J. J., Jr.  
709 Carolina Ave.

HITE, Mr. & Mrs. Charles W., Sr.  
Thomas Franklin  
602 S. Lee St.

HITE, Mr. & Mrs. J. Duncan  
Suburban Mobile Home Park

HODNETT, Mrs. Grace  
Jane  
1776 Poston Circle

HOLLAND, Mrs. J. Mack, Sr.  
401 W. 10th Ave.

HOLLAND, Mr. & Mrs. J. Mack, Jr.  
Nancy B. & Johnny Mack III  
208 Eleventh Ave.

HOLLOWELL, Mr. & Mrs. L. B.  
Samuel Hugh  
309 W. Sixth Ave.

HOLLOWELL, Mr. & Mrs. Lin B., Jr.  
1128 Woodvale Ave.

HOLMES, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey W., Jr.  
1525 Lynhurst Dr.

HOLMES, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey W., Sr.  
1212 Jackson Rd.

HOOPER, Mrs. G. R.  
226 N. Myrtle School Rd.

HOOPER, Mr. & Mrs. Charles  
Carolyn Lee & Pamela Ann  
309 Beverly Dr.

HOOPER, Mr. & Mrs. Willis K.  
Thomas K. &  
Mrs. Beverly H. Willard  
105 N. Roy St.

HOPE, Mrs. T. G.  
508 W. Fifth Ave.

HOPKINS, Mr. & Mrs. James L.  
David Alan  
507 Hawthorne Lane

HOPPER, Miss Hattie  
Washington, D. C.

HOSICK, Mrs. Ted R.  
1051 Paramount Circle

HOUCK, Mr. & Mrs. Bryan  
Suzanne D.  
1231 Queensgate

HOUGH, Mr. & Mrs. Lewis M.  
Lewis McNeil, III  
440 Collier St.

HOUSER, Mr. & Mrs. J. B., Jr.  
508 Hawthorne Lane

HOUSER, Dr. J. B., III  
Charlotte, N. C.

HOUSER, Mrs. J. B., III  
Dorothy Dean  
1542 New Hope Rd.

HOVIS, Mr. & Mrs. Craig  
Robert Craig, Edwin Claude &  
Donald Calvin  
1703 Fairfield Dr.

HOWE, Mr. & Mrs. Roger C.  
Roger C., Jr.  
1726 Linwood Rd.

HOVIS, Mrs. J. R.  
Greenbriar Rest Home

HOWELL, Mr. G. Alton

HOWELL, Mr. & Mrs. W. Don  
Mrs. Pamela H. Weisgerber &  
Rcbekah Lou  
109 N. Patrick St.

HOWIE, Mr. & Mrs. W. A.  
422 S. Oakland St.

HOYLE, Mr. & Mrs. Foy  
123 N. Belvedere Ave.

HOYLE, Mrs. John  
420 Evergreen St.

HUDDLE, Mr. & Mrs. W. B.  
Mrs. Linda H. Dietrich  
1240 E. Morgan St.

HUDSON, Mr. & Mrs. Carroll  
Leah, Jeff & Donald Creed  
517 Derby Court

HUDSON, Mrs. E. R.  
1114 East Park Dr.

HUGHES, Mr. & Mrs. E. B.  
Malcolm Craig  
Winston-Salem, N. C.

HUGHES, Mrs. C. D.  
Morganton, N. C.

HUGHES, Mr. Henry  
Florida

HUNTSINGER, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene L.  
Eugene L., Jr.  
Camp Rotary Rd.

HUNTSINGER, Mrs. J. W.  
112 E. Third Ave.

HUSKINS, Mr. & Mrs. H. Joe  
Lydia Ann  
340 Armstrong Park Rd.

HUFFSTETLER, Mr. & Mrs. L. D.  
121 N. Belvedere Ave.

HUSS, Mr. & Mrs. John R.  
713 Neil St.

IPOCK, Mrs. Vance H.  
Raleigh, N. C.

JACKSON, Mrs. Carl E.  
521 S. Chester St.

JACOBS, Mrs. Joe, Sr.  
312 E. Second Ave.

JACOBS, Mr. & Mrs. Joe, Jr.  
Joseph S. III & George Daniel  
1122 Paramount Circle

JEFFERIES, Mrs. Geraldine  
5500 Flagstaff Dr.  
Charlotte, N. C.

JEFFERIES, Mr. J. F.  
Michael Dean  
124 N. Patrick St.

JENKINS, Mrs. Charles W.  
813 S. York St.

JENKINS, Mrs. George A.  
615 South St.

JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. George, Jr.  
Kay Douglas  
101 N. Edgemont Ave.

JENKINS, Miss Mary Frances  
1003 Athenian Dr.

JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. Harry  
Jane Myra & James Edward  
2516 Armstrong Park Rd.

JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. Henry  
Henry Clinton &  
Mrs. Mary Beth J. Wingler  
412 S. Oakland St.

JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. J. Campbell  
821 W. Davidson St.

JENKINS, Mrs. J. Thomas  
Dallas, N. C.

JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. John M.  
Pinchurst Townhouse  
Eagle Rd.  
Belmont, N. C. 28012

JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. John S.  
John S. III & William Bain  
1411 Westbrook Circle

JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. R. Bain  
303 W. 11th Ave.

JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. R. Bain, Jr.  
1839 Montclaire Ave.

JENKINS, Mr. & Mrs. W. G.  
306 E. First St.  
Lowell, N. C.

JEWELL, Mr. & Mrs. Charles E.  
Roanoke, Va.

JOHNSON, Mrs. Brady S.  
Samuel Brady III  
310 S. York St.

JOHNSON, Mr. & Mrs. Cecil R.  
Cecil R., Jr. & Caroline Ruth  
1501 Fairfield Dr.

JOHNSTON, Mr. & Mrs. E. H.  
502 W. 6th Ave.

JOHNSTON, Mr. E. H., Jr.  
129 Eastover Dr.

JOHNSTON, Mrs. Hugh W.  
James A., Joan Caroline, Pamela,  
Leslie Diane & Linda Ann  
1034 Paramount Circle

JONAS, Mr. & Mrs. Ralph  
1360 Carmen Lane

JONES, Mrs. Clarence L.  
Danny  
703 Laurel Lane

JONES, Mr. & Mrs. Steve  
1034 Green Circle Dr.

JONES, Mr. & Mrs. Tyrus O.

JORDAN, Mr. & Mrs. H. R.  
1110 New Hope Rd.

JORDAN, Rev. & Mrs. Howard R.  
535 Rosemary Lane

JORDAN, Mr. & Mrs. Raymond  
Raymond A. & Robert Cary  
521 Treasure Lane

JORDAN, Mr. & Mrs. Richard E.  
1025 Holland Ave.

JORDAN, Mr. & Mrs. William E.  
405 Dale Ave.

KAFITZ, Mr. & Mrs. Theodore  
106 E. Fourth Ave.

KALE, Mrs. W. A.  
Naomi & Sallie  
502 N. Ida St.

KANDLER, Mrs. Francis J.  
Linda Lee  
1718 Fairfield Dr.

KEEVER, Mr. & Mrs. Bayne  
Meredith K. & Philip Blair  
900 Scotch Dr.

KELLEY, Mrs. W. H.  
Grier Apts., #16  
Garrison Blvd.

KELLEY, Mr. & Mrs. William H., Jr.  
 William H., III  
 2535 Fairfax Dr.  
 KENDALL, Mr. & Mrs. William A.  
 2444 Shaw Ave.  
 KERSH, Mr. & Mrs. John D.  
 John D., Jr. & Edith Alexandra  
 707 Torrence Dr.  
 KEY, Mr. & Mrs. F. Scott, Jr.  
 529 Thomas Trail  
 KILLIAN, Mrs. Guy C.  
 416 Broad St.  
 KILLIAN, Mr. & Mrs. W. D.  
 816 S. Jackson St.  
 KIRBY, Mrs. Walter L.  
 914 S. Gibbons St.  
 KITCHIN, Mrs. Nancy Gray  
 William M., Jr.  
 2320 Armstrong Circle  
 KNIGHT, Mr. & Mrs. Joe C., Jr.  
 Port Orange, Florida

LAHISER, Dr. & Mrs. Charles J.  
 Judith W., Sharon & Kathryn  
 908 Churchill Dr.  
 LAMBETH, Mrs. Coe  
 623 N. Weldon St.  
 LAND, Mrs. John  
 307 W. Fifth Ave.  
 LAND, Mr. & Mrs. John, Jr.  
 2200 Williamsburg Dr., Apt. 3  
 LANGFORD, Mrs. M. B.  
 408 S. Marietta St.  
 LANGSTON, Mrs. George L.  
 611 S. Neil St.  
 LANGSTON, Mr. & Mrs. T. Edward  
 Linda & Tommy  
 3325 Gardner Park Dr.  
 LAUGHridge, Mrs. A. L.  
 Florida  
 LAUGHridge, Mrs. A. L.  
 904 Robinwood Rd.  
 LAVENDER, Mrs. Nell  
 Miss Faye Elizabeth  
 222 W. Fourth Ave.  
 LAWTON, Mr. & Mrs. Francis A., Jr.  
 Teresa Anne, Elizabeth Sue &  
 Francis A., III  
 527 Eastwood Dr.  
 LEAGAN, Mrs. Jane J.  
 Dale John  
 414 N. Edgemont Ave.  
 LEARY, Mr. Lawrence, Jr.  
 407 S. Chester St.  
 LEDBETTER, Miss Vivian E.  
 110 E. Third Ave.  
 LEGARE, Mrs. Hugh  
 522 West Third Ave.  
 LEGGETT, Miss Anna  
 509 W. Second Ave.  
 LEONHARDT, Mr. & Mrs. Henry F.  
 825 W. Davidson Ave.  
 LEONHARDT, Mr. & Mrs. Joe H.  
 Joseph H., Jr.  
 809 N. Ransom St.  
 LEWIS, Mr. & Mrs. Earl C.  
 801 St. Michaels Lane  
 LEWIS, Mr. James Reid  
 Raleigh, N. C.  
 LEWIS, Mr. J. Wilbur  
 190 S. Chester St.

LIGGON, Mr. & Mrs. Robert  
 1602 Garrison Blvd.  
 LILES, Miss Attie Belle  
 526 S. Clay St.  
 LINKER, Mr. & Mrs. Daniel H.  
 Daniel H. III & Kathryn  
 1728 Armstrong Park Rd.  
 LITTON, Mr. Daniel  
 218 S. Church St.  
 Durham, N. C.  
 LOFTIN, Miss Lillie  
 102 W. Second Ave.  
 LOFTIS, Mr. & Mrs. Dan  
 2708 Club Dr.  
 LONG, Mrs. Harry G.  
 Walter R.  
 708 Home Trail  
 LONG, Mr. & Mrs. John Kelly, Jr.  
 204 W. Tenth Ave.  
 LONG, Mr. & Mrs. John Kelly, III  
 Route 1  
 Camp Rotary Rd.  
 LOOPER, Mr. & Mrs. L. Ray  
 Linda Lee & Michael Ray  
 615 Rosemary Lane  
 LOWRY, Mr. & Mrs. Dorsey V.  
 Wade L. & Thomas E.  
 1445 Buckingham Dr.  
 LOWRY, Mr. & Mrs. Kermit  
 1126 Queensgate Court  
 LYTTON, Mr. & Mrs. Charles  
 1304 Park Lane Dr.  
 LYTTON, Mrs. Darrell  
 Dallas, N. C.

McALLISTER, Miss Carol  
 1920 Linwood Rd.  
 McATEER, Mr. Jake L.  
 311 S. Marietta Rd.  
 McATEER, Mrs. Jessie  
 Porter Lee  
 406 W. Sixth Ave.  
 McCARSON, Miss Marguerite  
 Hendersonville, N. C.  
 McCLUNEY, Mr. & Mrs. Marcus S.  
 Marcus Stewart, Jr.  
 2954 Planer Terrace  
 McCORD, Mrs. E. C., Jr.  
 Gary Edward  
 3000 Gardner Park Dr.  
 McDANIEL, Mr. & Mrs. James O.  
 David Ronald  
 1217 Laurel Lane  
 McDONALD, Mr. & Mrs. A. R., Jr.  
 1628 Dixon Rd.  
 McGHEE, Mr. & Mrs. Basil O.  
 1005 Woodland Dr.  
 McGINNIS, Mr. & Mrs. Don  
 Lola Sue  
 814 St. Michaels Lane  
 McHUGH, Miss Ruth  
 711 Neil St.  
 McKENZIE, Mr. & Mrs. John M.  
 Sherry Kay & John Myron, Jr.  
 419 S. Chestnut St.  
 McLAMB, Mr. & Mrs. J. Fred  
 Elizabeth Ann & Deborah Jane  
 807 Home Trail  
 McLAUD, Mr. & Mrs. Norman  
 Medina & Theresa Darlyn  
 Sherman Robinson Rd.  
 Dallas, N. C.

McNEILL, Rev. & Mrs. Kirk  
 2259 Helen Dr.  
 McPHAIL, Mr. & Mrs. R. V.  
 Martha Elaine  
 218 W. Tenth Ave.  
 McPHAIL, Mr. & Mrs. R. V., Jr.  
 2200 Williamsburg Dr.  
 Apt. 25  
 McPHERSON, Mrs. Victor W.  
 McSWAIN, Mr. & Mrs. Pat  
 Mrs. Susan S. Ramsey, Gerald Floyd,  
 & Margaret Patricia  
 304 W. Eleventh Ave.  
 MADDUX, Mr. Don, Jr.  
 MANGUM, Dr. Addison G.  
 Durham, N. C.  
 MANGUM, Capt. Jimmy Mac  
 Orlando, Florida  
 MANTOOTH, Mr. & Mrs. B. F.  
 1005 E. Maple St.  
 MARTIN, Mrs. C. W.  
 1217 Jones St.  
 MARTIN, Mr. & Mrs. Charles W., Jr.  
 Steven Wilson & Sara Kathryn  
 658 Rosemary Lane  
 MARTIN, Mr. Gary G.  
 1105 East Park Dr.  
 MARTIN, Mr. & Mrs. James Donald  
 Downey Apts., #17  
 New Hope Rd.  
 MARTIN, Mr. James W.  
 501 Francis Dr.  
 MARTIN, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence  
 Robert Blain & William Larry  
 1313 Lynhurst Dr.  
 MARTIN, Mr. & Mrs. Witt  
 1600 Jackson Rd.  
 MASON, Mr. George B.  
 607 S. York St.  
 MASON, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar, Jr.  
 310 S. York St.  
 MASON, Mr. & Mrs. Oscar, III  
 Banner Elk, N. C.  
 MATHERLEE, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas R.  
 310 S. Chester St.  
 MATHIESON, Mr. William E.  
 MATHIESON, Mr. & Mrs. W. M.  
 518 W. Second Ave.  
 MAUNAY, Mrs. Clyde  
 902 W. Rankin Ave.  
 MAUNAY, Mrs. J. Keith  
 223 N. Pryor St.  
 MAUNAY, Miss Jeannette  
 309 Highland St.  
 MAUNAY, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence  
 Brenda Kaye  
 1224 Monroe Dr.  
 MEEK, Mr. & Mrs. Joe H.  
 1230 Lynhurst Dr.  
 MERCER, Mrs. Harold  
 1313 York Rd.  
 MERCIER, Mr. John Robert  
 1048 Ashwood Court  
 Apt. C  
 METCALFE, Mr. & Mrs. Harold  
 2210 Scottwood Dr.  
 MICHAEL, Mr. & Mrs. Atkins D.  
 Marsha Lane  
 520 W. Garrison Blvd.  
 MICHAEL, Mr. Atkins D., Jr.  
 1036 Ashwood Court  
 MICHAEL, Mrs. F. C.  
 210 W. Fourth Ave.

MILLER, Mr. & Mrs. Claude F.  
Mary Judith & David Lee  
2409 Union Rd.

MILLER, Miss Claudia Ann  
1036 Ashwood Court, Apt. J

MILLER, Mr. & Mrs. G. Harold  
Gwendolyn Kay & Penny  
806 St. Michaels Lane

MILLS, Mr. & Mrs. Jesse  
304 Flanagan Lane

MOORE, Mr. & Mrs. Joe T.  
1028 Ridge St.

MOORE, Mr. & Mrs. J. Marion  
1127 S. Edgemont Ave.

MOORE, Mr. & Mrs. L. B.  
521 S. York St.

MÓORE, Mr. & Mrs. Steven K.  
Jo Ella  
514 W. Fifth Ave.

MORRIS, Mr. Frank W.  
Florida

MORRIS, Dr. & Mrs. Leslie  
Leslie M., Jr.  
1122 S. Edgemont Ave.

MORRIS, Mrs. Manola  
Cassandra & Robert S.  
405 South St.

MÓRRIS, Mrs. Nancy Rankin  
Mr. Albert Richard  
1015 Edgewood Circle

MORRIS, Mrs. W. B.  
371 Eight Ave.

MOSELEY, Mrs. J. B.  
501½ Lee St.

MOSER, Miss Carolyn  
Grier Apts., #22  
Garrison Blvd.

MOSER, Mr. & Mrs. Dan  
Catherine Lynn, Daniel B., Jr. &  
Christine Rebecca  
917 Athenian Dr.

MOSER, Dr. & Mrs. James E.  
James E., Jr., Steven Everette &  
Susan  
808 Carolina Ave.

MOSER, Dr. S. E.  
New Hope Rd.

MOSS, Mr. & Mrs. Clyde, Jr.  
1266 Cambridge St.

MURCHIE, Mr. & Mrs. John O.  
1220 Lynhurst Dr.

MURPHY, Mr. & Mrs. C. E.  
403 Hillcrest Ave.

MURPHY, Mr. Charles V.  
1808 Taylor Dr.

MURPHY, Mr. Horace  
406 Hillcrest Ave.

MURRAY, Mr. & Mrs. Eugene L.  
Eugene L., Jr. & Lawrence Beal  
1626 Timberlane Dr.

MYERS, Mr. A. G.  
211 W. Second Ave.

MYERS, Mr. & Mrs. A. G., Jr.  
Mrs. Barbara M. Melvin  
2605 Armstrong Circle

MYERS, Mr. & Mrs. Albert G., III  
2501 Pinewood Rd.

NEELY, Mr. & Mrs. Robert J.  
3132 Erskine Dr.

NELSON, Mr. & Mrs. Malcolm C.  
1635 Laurel Lane

NELSON, Dr. Mary Ellen  
506 Lee St.

NIVENS, Miss Virginia  
421 South St.

NIXON, Mr. & Mrs. C. E.  
Phillip Joel  
1727 Montclaire Ave.

NORDSTROM, Mr. & Mrs. S. J.  
Andrea, Nancy & Robert  
Massachusetts

NUTTALL, Mr. & Mrs. B. F.  
Mrs. Marjorie N. Huntington  
Dallas, N. C.

O'NEAL, Mr. & Mrs. William T.  
Joseph M. & Patrick W.  
Fayetteville, N. C.

ODOM, Mrs. C. M.  
904 New Hope Rd.

OGDEN, Dr. & Mrs. Robert H.  
1227 Cambridge Ave.

ORMAND, Mrs. Nancy K.  
James Tracey, III  
1617 Poston Circle

OWEN, Mr. & Mrs. R. Glenn  
834 S. Jackson St.

OWENS, Mr. & Mrs. Harvey  
Elizabeth Ann  
1124 Paramount Circle

OWENSBY, Mrs. David P.  
3010 Club Dr.

OWENSBY, Mr. John  
Clover, S. C.

PAGE, Miss Mitzi Brooke  
Miss Karen Lynn  
104 W. Ninth Ave.

PARHAM, Mrs. U. J.  
George Lee & Patsy Lynn  
1704 Fern Forest Dr.

PARKER, Mr. & Mrs. George  
1630 Perry St.

PARKER, Mrs. J. E.  
Joseph Glenn & Jeffrey Thomas  
3243 Deerwood Dr.

PARKER, Mr. & Mrs. John R.  
614 W. Airline Ave.

PARKER, Mrs. Kenneth  
1135 S. Edgemont Ave.

PARKER, Miss Lottie  
Dallas, N. C.

PARKER, Mr. & Mrs. William, III  
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Dallas, N. C.

PALMER, Mr. & Mrs. G. W.  
1727 Fairfield Dr.

PARRISH, Mrs. M. A.  
Karl Max, John Eric & Michael F.  
722 Carolina Ave.

PATTON, Mrs. N. M., Jr.  
Robert Davis  
1315 Park Lane

PEACH, Mr. & Mrs. D. W.  
Mrs. Alice P. Harris & Sydney  
Clover, South Carolina

PEARSON, Mr. & Mrs. Charles S.  
517 Downey Place

PEDEN, Miss Mary  
119 E. Third Ave.

PEEDIN, Miss Minnie Lee  
Methodist Home  
Charlotte, N. C.

PEEPLES, Mr. J. D.  
207 E. Third Ave.

PENEGAR, Mr. & Mrs. O. G.  
1120 Cumberland Ave.

PENEGAR, Mr. & Mrs. Richard  
2613 Armstrong Circle

PENINGER, Mrs. G. F.  
320 E. Third Ave.

PENNINGTON, Mr. & Mrs. John L.  
407 S. Chester

PHILLIPS, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest J.  
Ernest Jake, III  
603 Dartmouth Dr.

PHILLIPS, Mrs. Katherine W.  
225 W. Marietta St.

PHOENIX, Mr. & Mrs. Lee C.  
Thomas Henry & Margaret Ann  
3157 Whitson Rd.

PINNIX, Mr. & Mrs. R. H.  
215 W. 10th Ave.

PLOWDEN, Mr. & Mrs. R. G.  
1002 Kensington Ave.

PLYLER, Mrs. W. Z.  
1628 Plyler Lake Rd.

POLK, Mr. & Mrs. William C., Jr.  
Mrs. Claudia Polk Clinard &  
Vicki Jane  
1316 Milwood Dr.

POLLOCK, Mrs. Lois  
916 S. Marietta St.

PORTER, Mr. Ernest C.  
503 Lee St.

PORTER, Mr. Homer  
313 N. Boyce St.

POWELL, Mr. & Mrs. R. Glenn  
David Lamar  
425 Dunham Rd.

POWELL, Mr. & Mrs. William  
1121 Nottingham Dr.

PRESSLEY, Mr. & Mrs. C. W.  
412 S. Columbia St.

PRESTWOOD, Mrs. Lottie  
510 W. Sixth Ave.  
Apt. B

PRICE, Mrs. D. B.  
615 Neil St.

PRICE, Mr. & Mrs. William J.  
William J., Jr., Stephen Anders &  
Timothy Craig  
1025 Athenian Dr.

PRINCE, Dr. & Mrs. George E.  
Helen Elizabeth, Millie Mann &  
Susan Hood  
1740 Montclair Ave.

PUETT, Pam  
1800 Montclair Ave.

PUCH, Mrs. Charles H.  
610 S. Lee St.

QUINN, Mr. & Mrs. Steve  
210 Salem Ave.  
Dallas, N. C. 28034

RADER, Mr. William P.  
610 Wall St.

RAMSEY, Mrs. E. L.  
Eddie Lee

1008 Fairfield Dr.  
 RANKIN, Mrs. Albert, Sr.  
 Wesley Nursing Center  
 Charlotte, N. C.  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. Albert R., Jr.  
 Edward Sims  
 610 West 12th Ave.  
 RANKIN, Mrs. Cecil C.  
 George Richard & Jane Anna  
 407 Elizabeth Ave.  
 RANKIN, Miss Edna  
 614 S. Chester St.  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. Ernest E.  
 Steve & Dan  
 108 E. 4th Ave.  
 RANKIN, Miss Erwin  
 701 S. York St.  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. James T.  
 James T. & Fred P.  
 505 Clinton Ave.  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. Lawrence S.  
 602 S. York St.  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. R. Grady  
 2515 Pinewood Rd.  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. R. Grady III  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. Robert H.  
 705 Carolina Ave.  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. R. Pinkney  
 Blowing Rock, N. C.  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas P., Jr.  
 1505 McCormick Ave.  
 RANKIN, Mr. & Mrs. William L., Jr.  
 W. Lamar III  
 501 S. Chester St.  
 RANKIN, Mrs. W. Lamar, Sr.  
 Sammy Edwin  
 501 S. Chester St.  
 RAWLINGS, Mr. J. Fred  
 911 Churchill Dr.  
 RAWLINGS, Mr. & Mrs. Robert  
 Kimberley Jean  
 1541 New Hope Rd.  
 RAY, Mrs. Lee  
 1115 Cumberland Ave.  
 RECTOR, Mr. & Mrs. Worth  
 Sandra Louise & Worth Eugene  
 1312 S. Lineberger St.  
 REECE, Mr. & Mrs. William M.  
 William M., Jr.  
 3234 Gardner Park Dr.  
 REEP, Mrs. John L.  
 708 W. Airlane Ave.  
 REEP, Mrs. Wilma R.  
 425 S. Oak St.  
 REINHARDT, Mr. & Mrs. R. C., Jr.  
 Sally C., Virginia H. & Robin C.  
 212 W. Ninth Ave.  
 RHYNE, Mrs. Ural R.  
 718 W. Rankin Ave.  
 RHYNE, Mr. & Mrs. William E.  
 William E., Jr. & Lila Caroline  
 507 Picadilly Circle  
 RICE, Mrs. A. R.  
 William Russell  
 713 S. York St.  
 RITCH, Mr. & Mrs. Paul  
 2541 Pinewood Rd.  
 ROBBINS, Mr. & Mrs. C. V.  
 Charles David, H. William &  
 Florine Elizabeth  
 411 Dale Ave.  
 ROBERTS, Mr. & Mrs. Bob G.  
 Carrboro, N. C.

ROBERTS, Mrs. Dan  
 2850 Douglas Dr.  
 ROBERTS, Mr. J. C.  
 1007 Fairfield Dr.  
 ROBERTS, Mr. & Mrs. J. C., Jr.  
 Reta Caroline & Mary Catherine  
 606 S. Lee St.  
 ROBERTS, Mr. & Mrs. Warren H.  
 Warren H., Jr.  
 1613 Fairfield Dr.  
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 2141 Greenleaf Lane  
 ROBINSON, Mr. & Mrs. C. Raymond  
 410 S. Oakland St.  
 ROBINSON, Mr. & Mrs. Leland  
 922 Elma Dr.  
 ROBINSON, Mr. & Mrs. William E.  
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 1715 Fairfield Dr.  
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 Mr. & Mrs. William E., Jr.  
 Asheville, N. C.  
 ROBISON, Mr. & Mrs. W. T., Jr.  
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 908 South St.  
 ROCKETT, Mr. & Mrs. Glenn Evan  
 Myrtle Beach, S. C.  
 ROCKETT, Mr. & Mrs. Henry F., Jr.  
 513 W. Hillcrest Ave.  
 ROCKETT, Mr. & Mrs. James E.  
 512 Hawthorne Lane  
 ROCKETT, Mrs. Roy  
 225 W. 4th Ave.  
 ROSE, Mr. & Mrs. Charles V.  
 Susan Merrill & Charles Vance  
 409 W. Fifth Ave.  
 ROSE, Mr. & Mrs. Loyd W.  
 507 S. York St.  
 ROSE, Mr. & Mrs. Loyd W., Jr.  
 Sharon Elizabeth & Sally Jean  
 606 S. Jackson St.  
 ROSS, Dr. & Mrs. Paul  
 Mrs. Elizabeth R. Williams  
 1139 S. Edgemont Ave.  
 ROTHELL, Mr. & Mrs. John G.  
 Jennifer Gail  
 1134 Dunbarton Rd.  
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 Linda Carole & Laura Leslie Carnes  
 317 Rosemary Lane  
 ROWLAND, Mr. & Mrs. T. Glenn  
 Pamela Ann  
 3223 Gardner Park Dr.  
 RUDISILL, Mr. & Mrs. E. M.  
 710 S. Neil St.  
 RUDISILL, Mr. & Mrs. Hugh  
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 3311 Deerwood Dr.  
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 RUSTIN, Mr. & Mrs. William C., Jr.  
 1702 Fairfield Dr.  
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SAIN, Mr. & Mrs. Don  
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 2002 Saratoga Dr.  
 SANDERS, Mrs. Wade H.  
 1119 E. Franklin Ave.  
 SAWYER, Miss Mabel A.  
 3141 Gardner Park Dr.  
 SAYERS, Mrs. W. F.  
 William Floyd, Jr.  
 836 S. Jackson St.  
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 Lois Claudette  
 3603 Union Rd.  
 SCHLAGENHAUF, Mr. Fred.  
 1542 Ann St.  
 SCHLAGENHAUF, Mr. & Mrs. Joe  
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 Hazel Marie & Jonny Joe  
 1517 Fern Forest Dr.  
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 SCHULTZ, Mr. & Mrs. W. H.  
 Jeannelle  
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 SCOTT, Mr. W. A.  
 416 W. Marietta St.  
 SEAGRAVES, Mrs. Larry Paul  
 SEAGRAVES, Mrs. Mildred  
 624 Bridle Path Trail  
 SENTER, Mr. & Mrs. John  
 503 Hawthorne Lane  
 SETZER, Mr. & Mrs. John I., Sr.  
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 Route 1  
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 Richard James & Wilson Craig  
 1411 Midwood Dr.  
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 Gary & Philip  
 1200 South St.  
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 1209 Belvedere Ave.  
 SHIRLEY, Mrs. Ralph  
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 SHIRLEY, Major Troy T.  
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 SHOLAR, Mr. & Mrs. R. W.  
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 Mrs. Laura Elizabeth S. Orazi  
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 STOTT, Mr. & Mrs. Grady B.  
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 301 W. 11th Ave.  
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 STOVALL, Mr. & Mrs. Edgar A.  
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 Marcia, Gary & Robert K.  
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 Thomas Edward III &  
 Mrs. Sara S. McPherson  
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 SUMNER, Mr. & Mrs. Harold T.  
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 Michael DeGuin & Harold Randolph  
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 SUMNER, Mr. & Mrs. Hubert  
 Jean Anne & David Hall  
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 TATUM, Miss Lucile  
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 John David & Nancy Lee  
 503 Hanna St.  
 TAYLOR, Mrs. J. W.  
 105 N. Edgemont Ave.  
 TAYLOR, Mr. & Mrs. Thomas H., Jr.  
 Thomas H., III, James, Jane & John  
 1239 Queensgate St.  
 TAYLOR, Mr. & Mrs. Thurman  
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 213 E. Long Ave.  
 TERRELL, Mr. & Mrs. Robert W.  
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 Candace M.  
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 THOMPSON, Mr. Morris  
 THORN, Mr. & Mrs. Harry C.  
 David George, Linda & Karen Anne  
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 THORNTON, Mr. & Mrs. Mack  
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 Wesley Nursing Center  
 Charlotte, N. C.  
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 1203 Fairfield Dr.

TODD, Mr. & Mrs. W. D.  
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 1210 Fairfield Dr.

TORRENCE, Mr. Ralph

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TURNER, Mrs. Horace  
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TYSON, Mr. & Mrs. W. B., Jr.  
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UNDERWOOD, Mrs. J. Mack  
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WALKER, Mrs. Lucille  
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WALKER, Mr. Peter  
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WALLACE, Miss Alice  
 113 N. Belvedere Ave.

WALLACE, Mrs. C. C.  
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WALLACE, Mr. & Mrs. Gene  
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WALLACE, Mr. & Mrs. James M.  
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Route 4, Box 2048  
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WALLACE, Mr. & Mrs. Terry Parker  
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WALSH, Mr. & Mrs. P. E.  
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WARE, Mrs. S. H.  
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WARLICK, Mrs. A. C.  
 1848 Country Club Rd.

WARLICK, Mr. & Mrs. Ted  
 Ted E. & Anderson Davis  
 1136 S. Edgemont Ave.

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 Country Club Acres

WASHECHECK, Mrs. Jeannine F.  
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WATTS, Mrs. Graydon C.  
 1209 Jones Ave.

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 510 Downey Place

WEBB, Mr. Donald K.  
 1512 Johns Ave.

WEBB, Mr. & Mrs. Garcon D.  
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WEBB, Mrs. E. Y., Jr.  
 835 Bessemer City Rd.

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 Florida

WELLS, Mr. & Mrs. Abram  
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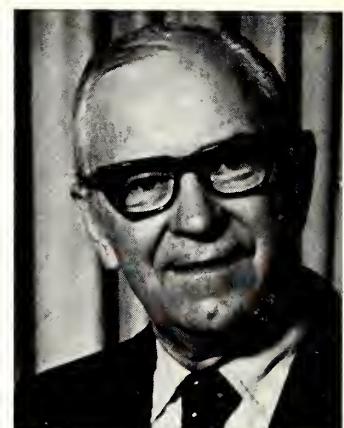
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Ennis Atkins



Christine Sloan



Ray Hackney

Miss Christine Sloan and Ennis Atkins, through their efforts in researching and supplying written material and Ray Hackney, who took numerous photographs of the new church and special groups, deserve special recognition in this publication.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

We are indebted to several publications listed below for valuable research material which we were able to use in the preparation of this history of the First Methodist Church of Gastonia. Also, we acknowledge with our appreciation the contributions made by those who, at our request, furnished special photographs and drawings.

### PUBLICATION CREDITS

*History of Gaston County* by Mrs. W. B. Puett  
*Gastonia Gazette* (Gazette Publishing Co.)  
*History of Gaston County* by Cope and Wellman  
*Textiles Review* (Textiles-Incorporated)  
*Pass In Review* (American Legion)

*History of Gastonia and Gaston County* by J. H. Separk

*Annals of Lincoln County* by Sherrill

*Methodism in Western North Carolina* by Clark

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## IN APPRECIATION

A plan and a desire to list the names of all those who have so generously contributed aid in the preparation of our church history has expanded far beyond our available space. So very many have helped and we express our deep appreciation.

Even so, a limited exception can be made. A small group, a production committee, assumed responsibility in specific instances involving the writing of articles, research, the gathering of essential information, and in many other ways contributed to the success of this undertaking.

The way has been arduous. Many, many days and hours have been devoted to the project. I know that the reader will understand why those who have participated in all this—and in these capacities—are singled out for special recognition, why we are attempting to show our appreciation of their efforts in making the history of your church possible.

Closely related to the entire project, the interest and encouragement shown by Chairman George Jenkins of the original history committee, has been of great value. We are indebted to Grady Stott, chairman of the Board of Stewards at the time the project started, for his guidance and his work in locating and copying the many deeds in connection with the undertaking.

Miss Christine Sloan, also of our congregation, who prepared the beautiful description of the interior of the new church; Architect Frank Griffin, who gave us the description of the exterior of the edifice; Mrs. Charles Gunter, who prepared the material for the Women's Society section, deserve special thanks.

Ennis Atkins of the production committee, who contributed the article about the old Oakland High School; Ray Hackney for his numerous photographs in this edition; and Mrs. Blanch Hamner, Mrs. Catherine McSwain, and Mrs. Nell Lavender for their untiring efforts in their research for material suitable for publication, all deserve special recognition. The Rev. W. G. Bumgarner, former pastor of the Covenant Methodist Church here in 1954–1958, gave valuable assistance to the editor in many ways.

Throughout the difficult months of gathering material, and research incident to this history, our

pastor, Dr. Charles Shannon, has been a constant source of inspiration, an ever-present help indeed. Research on his part included a visit to Duke University library in quest of information as to our church's early years. His correspondence on this subject has been substantial, and despite an extremely busy daily schedule of work, the editor has found him ready and willing to advise, to counsel and to recommend, to the end that the history might be as near complete as human endeavor can contrive. Dr. Shannon's great aid in this project can probably be best described as enthusiastically cooperative.

Reverting to the personal pronoun: Nearly two years ago I became painfully aware that my general health, particularly as it affected my vision, was steadily declining.

Deeply appreciative of the privilege of contributing whatever talent I might possess to the task of editing our church history, I wanted most of all to get the job done in a creditable manner.

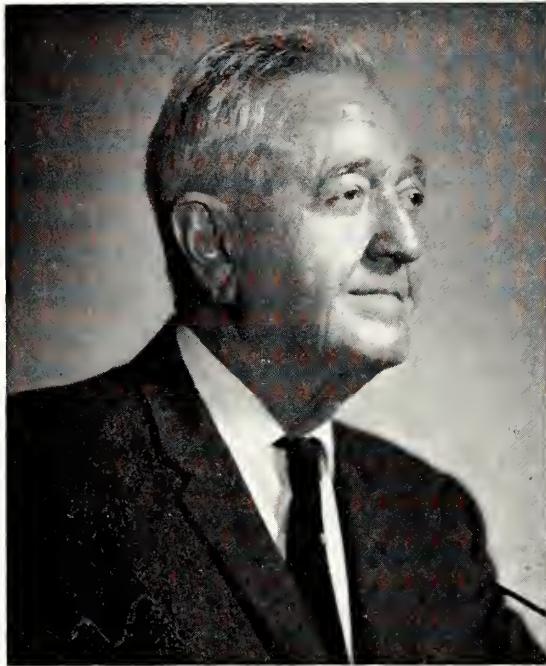
With practically all of the arduous research finished, most of the related matter in hand, including numerous photographs, I cast about for a person to handle the highly technical and tedious work of putting the book together and assuming the responsibility of getting it published.

The one and only man came to mind, my valued friend of half a century, Everett J. Jones. Everett, with his wife, the former Elizabeth Van Dyke, who had grown up in this church, were co-editors of *Pass in Review*, published during World War II by Gaston Post No. 23, American Legion, and later they had assumed the responsibility of editing *Textiles Review*, of which he was editor for 22 years. Having had years of experience in the field, with excellent judgment in illustration, arrangements, and preparation of copy, he is the ideal man for the job. He and his wife have agreed to assume the responsibility of the publication getting printed, and they refuse to accept any recompense.

I know all of you will join me in expressing deep appreciation to Everett and Lib Jones for their fine spirit of cooperation.

—Damron H. Williams

## A Tribute To Dameron H. Williams



Dameron H. Williams

Dameron H. Williams, the editor of this history, is a native of Bolton, Mississippi. He attended local schools and when World War One came along, he organized a Mississippi field artillery battery and was made its captain. He served with his unit in the A.E.F. in France during 1918 and 1919.

After getting out of service, he became associated with McFadden Cotton Company and spent nine months in the cotton-producing section of Peru. Coming to Gastonia in 1920, he managed the local office of the company. In 1921 he married the former Ruth Mason, the daughter of Oscar F. Mason, Sr. and Fannie Durham Mason. A son, Dameron, Jr., and a daughter, Ruth (Mrs. Lewis Bulwinkle), were born in Gastonia. Dameron's wife passed away in 1967.

Dameron Williams has been a most active citizen of the city for over fifty years. In his church work, he led the singing in the Separk class in Sunday school and also sang in the Chancel choir until his health failed. He was a member of the talented men's quartet of the church.

Music has had a fascination for this transplanted Mississippian. He was a member of the famous Gastonia Kiwanis Quartet and sang in many cities over the country. His quartet, by quickly changing names, became the equally sought-after Oasis Shrine Quartet or the Gastonia American Legion Quartet.

A past commander of Gaston Post #23, American Legion, he also organized and commanded a local unit of the N.C. State Guard in Gastonia during World War II.

The editor's literary talents even surpass his gifts in the musical line. For three years he wrote the "At Ease" column in *Pass In Review* for our service people from the county during World War II. It was filled with clean wit and Will Rogers-style comments which endeared him especially to many of his service readers.

His regularly contributed column in *Textiles Review* continued over twenty-five years until his health gave way. They were of such interest that frequently they were copied in other publications. He also wrote for the *State Magazine*, *The Cotton Trade Journal*, and other publications.

While pursuing his writing commitments, he did not neglect his church duties and served two terms on the Board of Stewards and was made an honorary member of the Administrative Board of the church.

### The Church History

More than six years ago, Editor Williams, realizing the need for a comprehensive history of the First United Methodist Church, began the hard task of trying to assemble materials for this book. Although he was in failing health, he was determined to produce a volume that would be a credit to the long history of the church.

As he continued his research, he never lost an opportunity to "buttonhole" prominent church leaders, acquaint them of his progress and urge them to form a committee to raise funds and produce the history. After six years of toil on the project (he would accept no financial reimbursement), the committee approved his project for publication. By that time he was in and out of hospitals, but still had the determination and courage to continue the work he had started.

Dameron Williams, our close friend and associate over many years, is an amazing man in character, courage, and dedication to the goals he has set for himself to accomplish. When he could no longer reach these goals by himself, on account of his physical disability, it was our privilege to lend a helping hand.

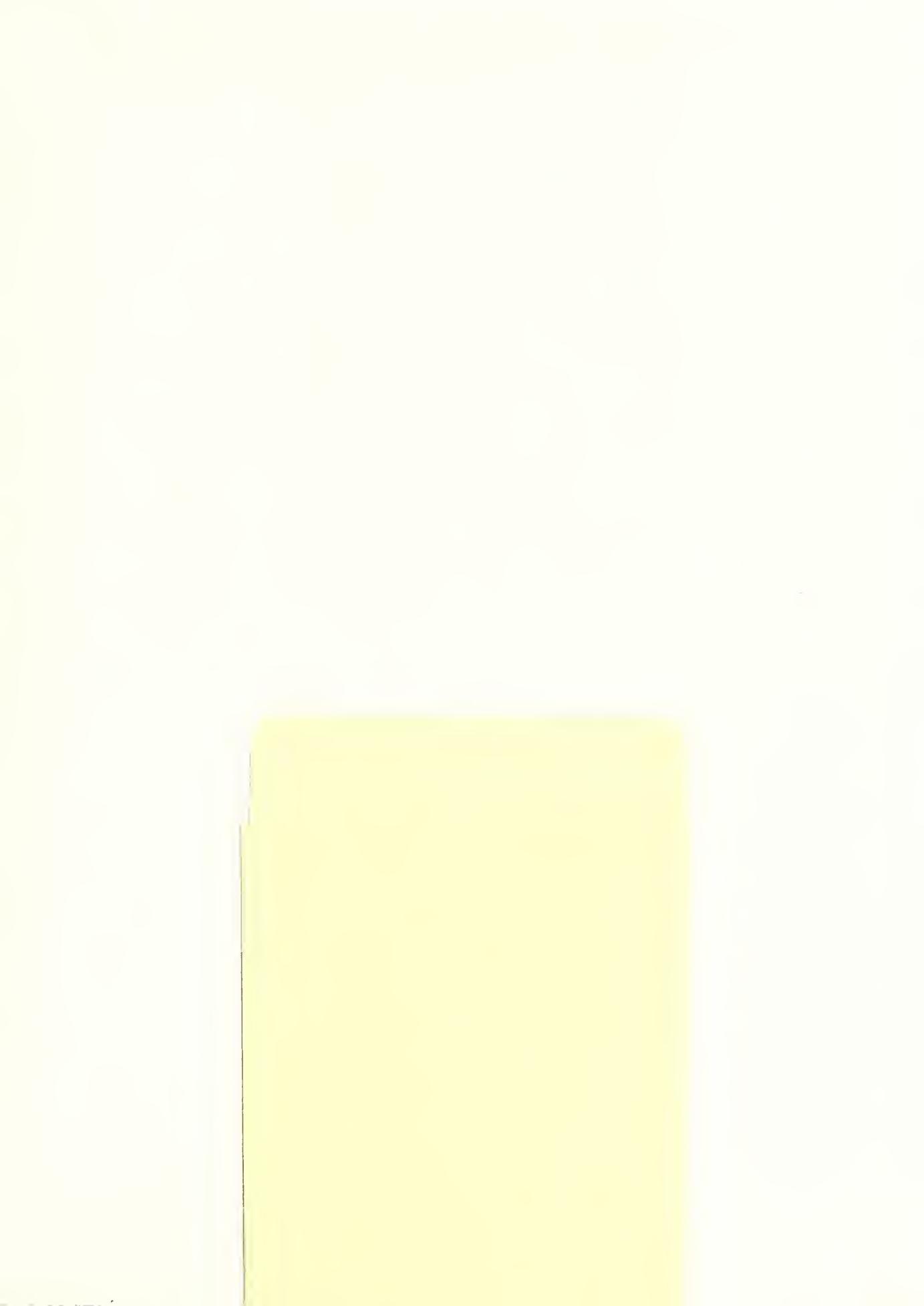
The members of the *First United Methodist Church in Gastonia* owe Dameron H. Williams a big vote of appreciation. If it had not been for his devotion and determination, *Shiloh and Beyond, A History of the First United Methodist Church* would never have become a reality.

Everett J. and Elizabeth Van Dyke Jones



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